

THE CATALYST

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"IGNITING THE MIND"

OldWestburyCatalyst.org

Coffee with University Police

By Arlyn Sorto

In an effort to bring officers and the OW community together, University Police hosted a Coffee with a Cop event on April 2nd, 2018 at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

"The students don't really interact with [University Police] because our first thought is that they're trying to ruin our fun, but in reality, they're just trying to keep us safe," said Kiyana Borges, a Freshman Psychology major at OW.

Community policing has been an important strategy in which officers in communities engage with inhabitants and form strong relationships. National Coffee with a Cop Day is the first week of every October, and was created to "encourage communication and positive interactions between law enforcement agencies and the public," according to the official Coffee with a Cop website. However, University Police decided to create their own Coffee with a Cop, which has now become an event every semester.

There are over 1,500 events in all 50 states according to the official Coffee with a Cop website. "Every October there is a national Coffee with a Cop Day and it's held all across the country," said Deputy Chief Pascal. "Police departments can do their own Coffee with a Cop whenever they want."

According to Deputy Chief Pascal, "We just wanted to break down barriers between our campus community which is the students, faculty and staff, and the University Police officers."

There are many barriers that communities may face including racial, economic, and language barriers. Coffee with a Cop is an informal setting that allows community members and officers that patrol the area to interact and discuss matters that are important to the community. According to the Coffee with a Cop website, officers are required to turn off their radios and cell phones during the event so that interactions are uninterrupted and "stress-free."

(Cont. on page 3.)

SPORTS PAGES 11-12

New Funding Aims to Alleviate Opioid Epidemic in Nassau County

Nassau County: Opioid overdoses and rates per 100,000 population (data as of May, 2017)

Indicator	Location	2015 Total		Jan-Mar, 2016		Apr-Jun, 2016		Jul-Sep, 2016		Oct-Dec, 2016		2016 Total	
		Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
Deaths¹													
All opioid overdoses	Nassau	172	12.6	37	2.7	36	2.6	11	0.8	7	0.5	91	6.7
	NYS excl. NYC	1,520	13.5	493	4.4	407	3.6	243	2.2	95	0.8	1,238	11.0
Heroin overdoses	Nassau	71	5.2	14	1.0	12	0.9	2	0.1	0	0.0	28	2.1
	NYS excl. NYC	698	6.2	202	1.8	170	1.5	102	0.9	39	0.3	513	4.6
Overdoses involving opioid pain relievers ²	Nassau	114	8.4	27	2.0	25	1.8	7	0.5	7	0.5	66	4.8
	NYS excl. NYC	999	8.9	368	3.3	305	2.7	176	1.6	65	0.6	914	8.1
Outpatient emergency department visits³													
All opioid overdoses	Nassau	229	16.8	82	6.0	87	6.4	103	7.6	76	5.6	348	25.6
	NYS excl. NYC	4,612	41.0	1,741	15.5	1,772	15.8	1,551	13.8	1,557	13.8	6,621	58.9
Heroin overdoses	Nassau	134	9.8	52	3.8	57	4.2	72	5.3	48	3.5	229	16.8
	NYS excl. NYC	3,240	28.8	1,287	11.4	1,282	11.4	1,084	9.6	1,099	9.8	4,752	42.3
Opioid overdoses excluding heroin ²	Nassau	95	7.0	30	2.2	30	2.2	31	2.3	28	2.1	119	8.7
	NYS excl. NYC	1,372	12.2	454	4.0	490	4.4	467	4.2	458	4.1	1,869	16.6
Hospitalizations³													
All opioid overdoses	Nassau	198	14.5	39	2.9	40	2.9	44	3.2	45	3.3	168	12.3
	NYS excl. NYC	1,874	16.7	475	4.2	481	4.3	448	4.0	451	4.0	1,855	16.5
Heroin overdoses	Nassau	65	4.8	21	1.5	10	0.7	18	1.3	16	1.2	65	4.8
	NYS excl. NYC	619	5.5	205	1.8	191	1.7	193	1.7	168	1.5	757	6.7
Opioid overdoses excluding heroin ²	Nassau	133	9.8	18	1.3	30	2.2	26	1.9	29	2.1	103	7.6
	NYS excl. NYC	1,255	11.2	270	2.4	290	2.6	255	2.3	283	2.5	1,098	9.8

New York State Department of Health

"New York State - County Opioid Quarterly Report," July, 2017.

By Kristin Brave

Opioid overdoses are responsible for more than 115 deaths a day in the United States. Opioids are defined as a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone.

In Nassau County, opioid overdoses were responsible for 600 deaths in 2017 and the Nassau County District Attor-

ney's Office lists overdoses/poisoning as the leading cause of death for 18-35 year olds in the county.

Recently, 59 individuals were arrested in Massapequa for selling opioids, drawing attention to this issue in the region. Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder spoke at a news conference about this issue following the

(Cont. on page 3.)

MAC Attack! #OWMAC Is Back on Wednesday, May 2nd 2018

By Eliot Goshman

The eleventh annual SUNY Old Westbury Student Media Arts Celebration will be held in the Maguire Theater on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018.

In 2007, communications professor Joseph Manfredi had an idea for a student competition to promote the talents of SUNY Old Westbury students. He called it the MAC Awards which is an acronym for Media Arts Celebration. Professor Manfredi wanted this to be a truly objective awards competition, not influenced by teacher-student relationships at SUNY OW. "We designed the completion to be judged by industry professionals, so that the work of the students would be judged fairly and impartially," he said. "I believe this makes our competition unique." Professor Manfredi is assisted by other professors on campus, and students also volunteer their time to work on the awards



Professor Joseph Manfredi and the MAC Award.

(Cont. on page 3.)

English Department Accelerates Learning at Old Westbury

By Eve Clerval

Old Westbury recently received \$20,000 from SUNY for a grant written by Drs. Jacqueline Emery, Margaret Rose Torrell, and Linda Camarasana of the English Department.

This grant will fund the development of "co-requisite" courses and workshops as a part of an "Accelerated Learning Program" approach to improving student writing skills at Old Westbury. A co-requisite course is "a course a student must take at the same time as another course or requirement."

The SUNY campaign to build a Developmental English Learning Community was created to help SUNY colleges spearhead their co-requisite programs and provide more aid to students improving their writing skills.

"This grant enables us to provide students in our English composition courses with additional support with their writing," stated Dr. Emery. "While all of our English composition courses help students with their writing, students who are placed into English Composition I or II with a writing workshop will receive additional writing support.

"Co-requisite models like the one we are piloting at Old Westbury have been successful in increasing student confidence in reading, writing, and critical thinking skills," said Dr. Emery. "Assessment data from SUNY colleges and other colleges with co-requisite models also demonstrate increased retention rates."

These workshops will benefit many students at Old Westbury, not just English majors. All Old Westbury students are required to take English Composition I and II. Students work on 'writing prompts' in composition courses to improve their skills. The added support of the writing workshops will enable them not only to expand their writing skills but also to be more confident in using what they have learned.

MAC NOMINEES 4-5

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAMPUS NEWS

PAGES 1-5, 8

COFFEE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICE

NEW FUNDING AIMS TO ALLEVIATE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN NASSAU COUNTY

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ACCELERATES LEARNING AT OLD WESTBURY

MAC ATTACK! #OWMAC IS BACK ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2ND 2018

ASK DR. LANGE ABOUT FORENSIC ACCOUNTING!

A SNIPPET IN THE LIFE OF KARL GROSSMAN

2018 MAC AWARDS NOMINEES!

SAFE SPACES – PROGRESSIVE OR CENSORSHIP?

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2018!

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 7

THE VINYL RENAISSANCE

TARAJI P. HENSON GETS ACRIMONIOUS

OPINION

PAGES 8-10

FROM TIDE PODS TO “FINSTAGRAM”

COLORISM SURE IS UGLY

REVENGE PORN HURTS

BLACK HAIR BIAS IN THE WORKPLACE GUN VIOLENCE: YEARS OF

BLOODSHED AND NO SOLUTION

HOMELESSNESS: AN OPEN LETTER

SPORTS

PAGES 11-12

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL IS GROWING STRONG!

MICHAEL KRASNOFF’S COACHING JOURNEY AT SUNY OLD WESTBURY

ROD STEPHAN: FROM CORRECTION OFFICER AT RIKERS ISLAND TO OLD WESTBURY BASEBALL COACH

Ask Dr. Lange about Forensic Accounting!

By Chris Mathew

The School of Business at SUNY Old Westbury will offer a brand new Master of Science in Forensic Accounting in the fall of 2018. The announcement of this new graduate program even made it to the pages of Accounting Today which quoted our president, Dr. Calvin Butts: “We are very excited at being able to expand for Long Island our high-quality stable of graduate business programs,” stated president Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III. “An Old Westbury education in accounting has for decades prepared our graduates to excel when they sit for the state’s certified public accountancy exam. Now, by combining our existing undergraduate and graduate programs with our new program in forensic accounting, we are offering among the most comprehensive services in the preparation for the CPAs of tomorrow.”

The Catalyst was able to speak with the Director of Graduate Business Programs, Dr. Cary Lange about this graduate program which will be “the first graduate degree of its kind to be offered on Long Island.”



Dr. Cary Lange, Director of Graduate Business Programs.

The Catalyst: What is Forensic Accounting?

Dr. Lange: It is a rapidly growing field, in which most accounting firms have dedicated departments who are--at least certain staff members--to the umbrella of this field. Not only forensic accounting covers exposing financial fraud and trying to help clients to determine ways to avoid having financial fraud committed, it also extends to areas like computing insurance losses. Like if a business has a catastrophe of a flood or a fire and can't open their doors for a month, how much business did they lose? That is something forensic accountants compute. It also extends to the business evaluation areas in which is in great demand for estate planning purposes and purposes of divorce. Forensic Accounting takes in a lot of different areas not just crime.

The Catalyst: How did the idea of offering a masters program start?

Dr. Lange: Dr. David Glodstein is the primary author of the proposal to submit this program to SUNY. He has been involved in the forensic accounting area for many years. He [deals] mostly in the area of computing in insurance losses. It took a good 2-3 years for the idea of creating the proposal to getting it approved by SUNY-SED.

The Catalyst: What are the requirements for this new upcoming program?

Dr. Lange: It is a 30-credit program which consists of 10 classes. It can be completed by full-time students in three semesters (fall, spring and summer). Also, it could be done by working adults in a part-time basis over the course of more than one year.

The Catalyst: If students are interested in this new program, who do they have to reach out to?

Are you interested? Speak with Dr. Cary Lange by emailing him at langec@oldwestbury.edu. Also you can go to his office hours which are Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 pm to 5:30pm in NAB, RM 1055 or by appointment. He will happy to give you information about the new master's program and its courses.

Cont. from page 1

MAC Attack!

presentation event.

Now in its 11th year, the MAC Awards feature student works in several categories including digital arts, TV/video, new media, print and radio. Almost 80 projects were entered in the various subcategories last year. The annual ceremony to present the awards is treated as a major event. "The nominees invite their friends and family to come and we even have a red carpet ceremony covered by the school TV station just outside the auditorium," Manfredi said.

One of last year's winners, Michelle Weinfurt, currently a senior, who won an award for best interactive project, explained what she did to create it.

"I had taken Professor Smith's New Media in Action course, where I decided to create an interactive walking neighborhood pizza tour of pizza places along the south shore of Long Island. We went around and sampled all different kinds of pizzas, then created an interactive map where users could click on the location and get my input on the quality of the dough, what goes into making sauce, etc., and really focused on the craft of the pie which is what I called the project."

Weinfurt believed that she had a good chance to win, as her professor liked her project and had encouraged her to enter the awards. "I thought I had one of the stronger entries but was still worried because I knew the quality of the work of my peers," she said.

Weinfurt was happy that she won in her category, but did she detect any negativity from those who didn't win? "Personally I didn't," she said. "In other categories I heard that some people were upset [at not winning], but the good thing about the MAC Awards is that professors are always encouraging students to make new work and apply every year so typically a student who applies one year will reapply the next year."



MAC Award winner Michelle Weinfurt.

Professor Manfredi echoed her sentiment. "If there were [any bad feelings about not winning] I've never noticed it. Students are very excited just to be nominated and have their work on display. It's a celebration for all those who participate," he said. Weinfurt also said she will consider submitting a new project for this year's award ceremony.

Keep up with #OWMAC news on The Catalyst or visit: macawards.org This year's MAC Awards show is on Wednesday May 2nd.

Cont. from page 1

Coffee with University Police

Many officers on campus have already implemented community policing to benefit the campus community. Detective Burnet, who is one of two detectives on campus, claims he knows a lot of students on a first-name basis. "A lot of these people I know," said Detective Burnet. "I eat in the cafeteria a lot, so I can see who is who and get to know people."

Interacting with community members helps eliminate the sensation of stress and danger that many minorities face when

interacting with police officers. According to the Psychological Benefits Society, a website dedicated in explaining and analyzing psychological science in society states, "the more police are educated about psychology and behavioral issues, the more they are prepared to deal with these difficult encounters in a productive way."

The Coffee with a Cop event has even become a networking event. Students on campus who are curious about entering law enforcement take advantage of this event by

asking officers questions and advice. Deputy Chief Pascal's advice for students who want to go into law enforcement is, "If they have knucklehead friends that are doing stupid things, to not get involved with those knucklehead friends."

Whether students were discussing their concerns on campus or asking for advice in possible law enforcement careers, both the community and officers enjoyed a cup of coffee and a few tasty treats as they chatted away.

Cont. from page 1

New Funding Aims to Alleviate Opioid Epidemic in Nassau County

arrests made in Massapequa, highlighting a new app available to police officers, ODMAP, that will help law enforcement track hotspots of opioid busts and overdoses. Ryder and several police officers also handed out flyers at the Massapequa Long Island Rail Road Station urging residents to report any signs of drug abuse.

To help address the opioid epidemic, both inpatient and outpatient treatment centers are needed throughout the county. Assemblywoman Christine Pellegrino (D-Babylon/Islip/Oyster Bay) recently approved an additional \$50,000 funding in the 2018-19 state budget for the YES Community Counseling Center, which has two locations in Massapequa and Levittown. "I firmly believe we can't arrest our way out of this problem and need to rethink our

approaches," said Pellegrino. "I have been a big advocate for the harm reduction model and will push to see that implemented more broadly." YES states their mission is to increase awareness about personal and community issues, prevent and treat substance abuse, and to promote healthy families and a safe community. The center recently held an event educating residents and law enforcement on opioids and the effects they have on the county.

Mark Wenzel, Assistant Director of YES Community Counseling Center, believes that the opioid epidemic is a "perfect storm" for pharmaceutical companies. With advances in medicine, health professionals are able to prescribe heavy medications that are highly addictive. "Society looks at it as a moral issue rather than a medical issue,"

said Wenzel. "We need to get beyond that view and start to look at this as more of a medical model." Wenzel believes society is moving in the wrong direction by not addressing the medical concerns that opioid addiction poses.

The YES community center is an example of providing treatment over punishment for addicts. Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas plans to continue enforcement against drug dealers providing opioids, but provide recovery options for the addicted. Treatment centers like YES will educate and provide resources for individuals affected by drug use.

A Snippet in the Life of Karl Grossman

By Shatasia Fields-White

Karl Grossman has pioneered the combination of investigative reporting and environmental journalism in many different forms of media for more than 50 years and continues to do so today.

Grossman got his start in 1962 when he was in college. He did an internship at the Cleveland Press in Ohio, where he was a copy boy and was inspired by the reporters who worked there. Grossman began to fall in love with what the reporters did and decided to follow in their footsteps. "My parents didn't have any influence in what I wanted to do at all. My dad actually wanted me to be a high school teacher in Queens, New York," he said.

Grossman has since worked in television and print journalism. He's hosted the national television program *Enviro Close-Up* and has also narrated and hosted award-winning documentaries about environmental and energy issues. Grossman has written six books as well as magazine, newspaper, and internet articles over the years. He hosted and was a writer for TV documentaries produced by New York-based *EnviroVideo*, including the award-winning *Chernobyl: A Million Casualties*, *Three Mile Island Revisited*, *Nukes in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens* and *The Push to Revive Nuclear Power*.

Grossman lives by the philosophy "Give

the people the light and they will find their own way." He explained that once you have the tools you can make anything happen as long as you do the work. This has been his guiding principle ever since he began interning at the Cleveland Press. Starting with the tools he was given as an intern, he worked his way up to become the chief investigative reporter for WVVH-TV on Long Island and also became a nightly news anchor for WSNL-TV and hosted "Long Island World" on WLIW-TV.

To this day, Grossman continues to contribute to publications such as *CounterPunch*, *OpEdNews*, *Enformable*, *Nation of Change* and *The Huffington Post*. He had a weekly column that discussed the environment which appeared in *The Southampton Press*. Grossman has written for *The East Hampton Press*, *The Sag Harbor Express*, *The Shelter Island Reporter*, *South Shore Press* and numerous other outlets on Long Island. He is a full-time professor of journalism at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury and has given presentations at colleges and universities across the United States and abroad, the United Nations of New York, the British Parliament, the Russian Congress and more.

Grossman has received awards for investigative reporting including the George Polk, Generoso Pope, James Aronson and

John Peter Zenger awards. He has also received multiple citations from the Press Club of Long Island, New York Press Association, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Society of Professional Journalists, Psychologists for Social Responsibility, New York Civil Liberties Union, Citizens Energy Council, Friends of Earth and Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting. The television documentaries he contributed to have received gold and silver awards at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival among other honors.

Not only an expert in his field, Grossman has also become a pillar in his school community according to his colleagues. "I have known Karl since I've worked here. He is an outstanding professor and many of the students enjoy his class. He is one of the most reputable professors and always guides people in the right direction," said secretary Annu Brewer. Grossman continues to do work in his field and pushes his students to do as well as he has done or better. After decades in the business, he still feels as though there is nothing more satisfying than uncovering the truth through investigation and hardcore facts. "I love what I've done. I think it's great and I think my father was wrong to suggest that I become a history teacher," he said.

2018 MAC AWARDS NOMINEES!

Here is the complete list of nominees for the 2018 MAC Awards! Join us at the Maguire Theater on Wednesday, May 2, to find out the winners. Check out all the #OWMAC nominees on MACAWARDS.ORG

DIGITAL ARTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Amanda Brooks - "Cat Eyed Boy"
Marcus Edwards - "MAC Award Poster"
Peng Bo Qi - "Feeding America"

DIGITAL IMAGING

Amber Marte - "For the Culture"
Steven Rios - "Imaginary Interior"
Samantha Simon - "Untitled"

WEB DESIGN

Stephen Fiore - "Games for Change"
Audrey Hufsmith Eckel - "Glacier Gallery"
Nyheim Mason - "Oliver Bonhomme"

3D DESIGN

Antonio Romano - "Alien"
Rocco Cazzetta - "Ocean Man"
Alyssa Strassburg - "Carry On"

ANIMATION

Amanda Brooks - "Human Animation"
Steven Rios - "Untitled"
Dan Deameller - "Bank Robbery"

VIDEO ART

Dan Tobin - "Substance Abuse"
Tajiri Bradley - "Exstasy"
Wilbert Vandiver - "I Need Tuition Money"

TELEVISION & VIDEO

BEST NEWS PACKAGE

Michelle Weinfurt - "Homecoming Kickoff 2017"
Arlyn Soto - "Parking at Old Westbury"
David Klein - "OW Today"

BEST FIELD REPORTER

Arlyn Soto - "Social Justice Activist Forum at Old Westbury"
Kevin Dumas - "SUNY Old Westbury Parking Nightmare"
Ricardo Morales - "On The Right Track"

BEST CREATIVE VIDEO

Arlyn Soto - "Little Raindrops (Video Poem)"
David Klein - "Final Autumn"
Kasey Espinosa - "I miss you"

BEST PORTRAIT OF A PERSON

Jose Espinosa - "A Missionary's Perspective"
Larissa Jimenez - "Cypress Steps to Success"
Ashley Mignosi - "The Drummer's Voice"

BEST PORTRAIT OF A PLACE

Kaitlyn Tenenbaum - "The Steps"
Stanley Talabert - "A Dream Deferred"
Arielle Mancebo - "Portrait of Old Westbury Web Radio"

BEST DOCUMENTARY

D'Andre Legrand - "Life Of An Elevator Mechanic"
Janiece Lawrence - "Chay Fashions"
Kenya Conley - "Full Time Grind"

NEW MEDIA

INTERACTIVE PROJECT

Jenna Barbone - "Love Conquers"
Marcus Edwards, Kimani Williams, Jonathan Ramos - "Diversity Throughout Old Westbury"
Jessinta Smith - "Missing Parent"

MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Ryan Callahan - "Hearing the Shots from the Other Side of the Desk"
Faith Gardner - "First-Generation Students: Make or Break?"
Jalen Natera - "Preventing Sexual Assaults"

PHOTO SLIDESHOW

Kelsey Blake - "Teen Leisure Time"
Thomas Gallopini - "Sagamore Hill"
Gissel Marquez - "Long Island Immigrant Students Advocates"

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WEB PORTFOLIO OR BLOG

Karla Arroyo - "Karleezy's Way"

Rayshawn Ogboe - "Portfolio"

James Short - "Portfolio"

PRINT

BEST FEATURE

Chris Priczak - "Win or Lose, the Astros and Houston"

Marcy Mendonca - "Excelsior: Two Sisters, One Scholarship"

Arlyn Sorto - "OW Highlights Writers Workshop with Freedom Forum"

Troy Georges - "Online Course Evaluation"

Eve Christie Clerval - "Haitians Back to Devastation"

BEST REVIEW

Keya Rice - "Violated Bodies: New Languages for Justice and Humanity"

Laura DeMarzo - "Stellar Signature Sounds"

Kim Garnier - "Black Tap"

Chris Mathew - "SNES Classic—A Trip Back to the 90's"

Marcy Mendonca - "No Clowning Around, 'It' Was a Hit"

BEST OPINION PIECE

Jay Shah - "The Fry Chronicles"

Kimberly Garnier - "The Dove Commercial"

Chris Priczak - "Should Athletes be Role Models for Young Children?"

Arlyn Sorto - "What is Catalonia"

Bobby Reilly - "Consumers Lose Without Net Neutrality"

BEST NEWS STORY

Laura DeMarzo and Faith Ann Butcher - "Civil Jury Finds OW Professor at Fault in Rape Lawsuit"

Bobby Reilly - "Letter from Germany"

Keya Rice - "School of Professional Studies is Growing"

Laura DeMarzo - "OW Alumnus Steve Abreu Runs for Town Council: An Interview"

Marcy Mendonca - "MALS: OW's Creative Way to Grad Studies"

RADIO

BEST NEWS SEGMENT

Andy Ledesma - "In The Know on OWWR"

Kristen Schmaeling, Jay Shah, Juan Salazar, Amanda Seguna,

Noah Mirenda - "Global Media News on OWWR"

Kevin Dumas, John Fogarty - "In The Know on OWWR"

Brandon Ellis, Kristen Schmaeling, Deanna Bobadilla, Jasari DeLos Santos, Alyssa Montebello - "OWWR 6 PM News Update"

BEST EVENT PROMO

Andy Ledesma - "Panthers vs. Rangers"

Jay Shah - "Down in the Dark on OWWR"

Kevin Dumas - "OWWR Live Panthers Broadcast"

BEST STATION PROMO

Joshua Richter, Kaite Tenenbaum - "To Infinity and Beyond on OWWR"

Kevin Dumas - "Join OWWR Sports"

Nikki Kallipozis - "Don't Judge Me on OWWR"

BEST CREATIVE PRODUCTION

Jay Shah - "Flu Season on OWWR"

Joshua Richter, Christianne Mustazza, Rene Canales - "Follow OWWR"

Karina Drake - "Top 40 on OWWR"

BEST SHOW

Brandon Ellis, Thomas Gallopini, John Fogarty, James Bacchioni, Nikki Kallipozis, Justin Ellis - "In The Know on OWWR"

Jay Shah - "Down in the Dark College Radio Day Edition on OWWR"

Joshua Richter, Katie Tenenbaum - "Infinity and Beyond Radio on OWWR"

Kevin Dumas, James Bacchioni, Marvin Argueta, Christianne Mustazza, Cheyne Sullivan - "Skyline Conference Championship on OWWR"

THE 11th ANNUAL STUDENT MAC AWARDS 2018 STUDENT MEDIA ARTS CELEBRATION

AWARDS:
DIGITAL ARTS
PRINT
VIDEO
TELEVISION
RADIO
NEW MEDIA

**WEDNESDAY MAY, 2 2018/
LIVE WEBCAST**

**RED CARPET: 6 pm
AWARDS: 7 pm**

PREVIEW THE NOMINEES WORK AT MACAWARDS.ORG

#OWMAC

POEM

Beautiful, A Poem

By Jefferson Charles

don't ever tell me
I'm not beautiful
don't tell me I'm not the
Shining sun
Breathing existence
To the seedling products
of this
blue
sphere
don't tell me
I don't encompass
All aesthetics
And
All bliss
That I'm not that flower
Not that tree
That I'm not THE blue
skies
or them awesome clouds
Spilling
Rain
On an arid desert
don't tell me me
I'm not as aesthetically
pleasing
As the snow capped
mountains
Standing tall in the dis-
tance
please don't try
Don't ever tell me
I'm not beautiful
Cause I convinced
I
Long before
You
Came
that I'm not
With a soul comparable to
this earth
and all its tragedies of war
and famine
A torn psyche
Gunning points of confi-
dence down
Stepping over bodies of
hope
Flinging cigarettes over the
once living comfort I had
To think im a mountain
to learn I'm a volcano
just...a...tragedy
Don't tell me I'm not
beautiful
Cause I'm convinced of
such
I am earth and nature
A calamity we trust.

The Vinyl Renaissance

By Eliot Goshman

When the phonograph was invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison, no one could imagine anything ever taking its place. People could listen to music at home, anytime they wanted to. For over 100 years, the phonograph record (commonly called “vinyl” today, named after the plastic used to make the discs) was the way to buy, listen and collect music. While vinyl records had their flaws, most people found the clicks, pops and sound quality of these records acceptable.

Then, in the early 1980's the compact disc or CD was born. It could deliver a virtually perfect sound copy of whatever was recorded to it, without the clicks and pops of the vinyl records. The disc was played using a laser beam of light, so there wasn't any wear from playing the disc, and no reduction of audio quality from being played, as there was with vinyl. The world quickly embraced this new product and music stores changed over to the new technology.

As the demand grew for music on CDs, the record companies changed over to the new format in their manufacturing facilities and that meant getting rid of the old equipment used to produce vinyl records. The record equipment manufacturers in turn, having few if any buyers or users left, went out of business as well. Goodbye vinyl, hello CDs!

In 2001, another phenomenon took the world by storm; Apple brought iTunes to the world. They thought that people might like the convenience of purchasing and downloading their music, without ever needing to leave home. This evolved into streaming audio online, allowing consumers to listen to their favorite song without having to download a file. Goodbye CDs, hello streaming!

All this time though, a small core of fanatics kept their vinyl records. They didn't like the “digital sound” of a CD, or needing a computer to download their music. They wanted their

classic records, with the big artful graphics and handcrafted liner notes on the back. A market for buying and selling used records quickly developed. As word spread via the internet, these groups of record collectors got bigger and bigger. A few small record companies tried manufacturing some specific music for the record collectors at the three or four small independent manufacturing plants that were still left in the U.S., and they saw that the sales were better than expected.



James Donio.

Courtesy of James Donio.

Steven Kolanjian runs a record research library in Brooklyn. He has over 200,000 record albums and CDs. “Records sound warmer than CDs” he said. “Companies don't take the time to master the music on CDs like they did with records and it shows. If they did, the CDs

would sound as good as the records did.” Kolanjian makes a living providing research and data to record companies, yet he doesn't use a computer for music. “Personally I like the convenience of CDs and the lack of surface noise that you have with records, but I wish they took more time on sound processing” he said.

The major record companies took note of the increased sales of vinyl and started to release their own selective titles on vinyl in the early 2000's. Stores that sold CDs, like Barnes & Noble and Target, started to sell the new vinyl record releases too, and they've had great success with vinyl sales. According to Billboard Magazine, record companies sold 14.32 million vinyl records (up 9 percent) in 2017. That's up from the previous one-year high,

registered in 2016 with 13.1 million vinyl records sold. 2017 marks the 12th straight year of growth in vinyl album sales. Goodbye streaming, hello vinyl!

Well, maybe not completely. “Streaming is the dominant model for music listening today” said James Donio, President of the Music Business Association, a non-profit membership organization that advances and



David Casale in Studio.

Courtesy of David Casale.

promotes music commerce. “But people should know that physical media products such as CDs and records sell billions of dollars worldwide and vinyl record sales have been increasing every year for the past ten years.” Donio also said that while no one can predict the future, he expects that streaming and physical product will continue to thrive and coexist in the music marketplace.

David Casale is a singer-songwriter who has just released his first single online. His dream is to be taken seriously as a musician, yet he knows that his day job of being a police officer in Pleasantville, New York, pays the bills. Casale recognizes the opportunity that the internet and streaming give him to get his music out to the public directly with the potential to see download royalties. It would be much harder and ultimately more costly to put out physical product at this early stage of his musical career. “I perform my songs in clubs and promote it online so as to [raise] awareness of what I am doing,” he said. “Social media is key today, that's where my followers and fans are. CDs and vinyl are in the future when sales of my music are high enough to support them.”

Taraji P. Henson Gets Acrimonious

By Keya Rice

Spoiler Alert:
This Review Contains a Plot Summary!

The word Acrimony refers to bitterness, anger, resentment, ill feeling, bad blood, and animosity. Tyler Perry takes audiences on a journey through emotional turmoil and the evils of revenge with his newest film Acrimony. The movie stars Taraji P. Henson as Melinda Gayle and Lyrq Bent as her ex-husband Robert Gayle.

Acrimony opens with a courtroom scene where a sour-faced Melinda glares angrily across the room at Diana, her husband's new wife. Melinda is staring hard enough that she becomes hypnotized by her rage, phasing out the voice of the judge who is speaking to her. When she snaps out of her trance the judge is asking her if she understands the implications of her recent behavior.

The judge, who seemed annoyed by Melinda's non-compliance, suggests one last option so that she does not end up in jail, his suggestion is seeing a psychiatrist. A bewildered, confused, and annoyed Melinda reluctantly agrees to the judge's terms as serving jail time would ruin her plans for revenge. The scene shifts to Melinda sitting in a psychiatrist's office where she begins to take us into the source of her rage and her relationship with Robert.

Melinda and Robert met in college, where they became inseparable despite her sisters' wishes to break up them up. Fast for-

ward eighteen years later, Melinda and Robert are in a lifeless marriage, struggling to hold on. Robert is in the basement of their home still working on his invention that can be used to power homes while Melinda is going to work at the office day after day. Each day they follow the same routine like clock-work and as the time goes by Robert still hasn't made progress on getting his invention sold. Melinda is the bread winner and has been faithful and supportive to Robert all this time but each day she gets closer and closer to giving up on him. Robert promised Melinda that once his battery sold they would be rich and he would buy her a yacht, a big diamond ring and so much more but almost two decades later his promises have yet to be fulfilled.

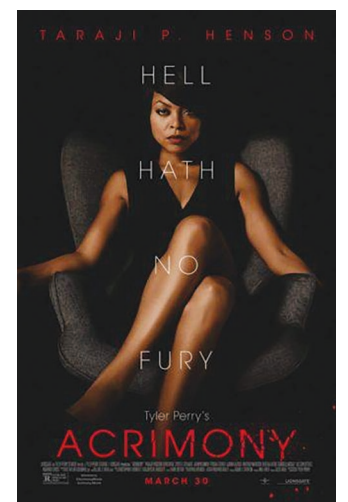
Things go from bad to worse after Melinda finds another woman's belongings in Robert's truck. She also finds out that he turned down a substantial amount of money from an investor that could have been used to avoid foreclosure on their home. Melinda kicks Robert out and cuts him off for good. She would soon come to regret this decision when Robert becomes a millionaire after his design is bought by a big company. He marries the woman who helped him land the deal.

Melinda becomes clouded by a red hot rage when she finds out about Robert's millions. She wants vengeance on Robert for giving another woman everything she felt was hers. Another woman was living her life and

Melinda was determined to take it back. Melinda becomes obsessed with Robert's new life and the feelings of pain, hurt, and betrayal eat away at her being like fire burning a building. Every day Melinda's

mind is warped with visions of the alternate reality she and Robert could have had and the pain consumes her to the point of no return.

Melinda goes so far off the grid that her family and friends become concerned, cautioning her to forget about Robert and move on, but the pain won't subside, no matter how hard she tries it whispers in her ear and rolls down her spine beckoning her to seek vengeance. In the end Melinda gets her vengeance but she may have lost the thing she wanted most.



Safe Spaces – Progressive or Censorship?

By Kristin Brave

What is a safe space? College students across the nation are asking for “safe spaces” especially at elite, liberal institutions. Simply put it’s a physical space where you can feel free from any menace of bias, any intellectual or physical threat to your identity or well-being.

College has typically been viewed as a place of open mindedness and acceptance. Some students have expressed a desire for spaces free from the opinions of others that they find offensive, but others see this a restriction of expression.

Originally designed for LGBTQ+ community members, safe spaces maintain a space free of judgement and hate speech which is defined as speech that is intended to insult, offend, or intimidate a person because of some trait (race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability).

Safe spaces draw attention to the conflict between the right to free speech and the expectation of a comfortable and supportive learning environment. Many students and professors agree that offensive comments regarding specific cultures or individuals should be restricted but others worry this may be over-protective and could chill conversation, limit interaction, and even result in a more segregated or divided campus community. There has been a very vocal backlash against the safe-space activism from both conservatives and progressive defenders of free speech and civil liberties.

Media coverage of safe space activism on campus is creating controversy on both ends of the political spectrum. In a recent poll by iSideWith, 65% of people were against safe



When professors brainwash students in hard-left ideology, they produce belligerent zombies that quickly go out of their control.



An example of the conservative backlash against safe-space activism.

spaces and 35% were in favor. The poll asked for political party affiliation. “It should be the choice of the university to provide them or not,” said a socialist from Pomona, NJ. A Democrat from Chicago stated, “An essential component of a rich learning experience is being forced to confront controversial perspectives. This should not be carried too far.”

At some colleges, professors have been required to give their students trigger warnings prior to discussing sensitive subjects such as abortion, gay rights, and the rights of immigrants. This is controversial because unlike lower-level schools, professors at the university level historically had more freedom in what they chose to discuss during class time.

SUNY Old Westbury has implemented safe spaces along with other large progressive universities such as UC Berkeley, the University of South Carolina, and Kent State University. SUNY Old Westbury defines a safe space

as:

“...a place where any young person can relax and be fully self-expressed, without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable, unwanted, or unsafe on account of biological sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, race/ethnicity, cultural background, age, or physical and mental ability. It is a place where the rules guard each person’s self-respect and strongly encourage everyone to respect others.”

Dr. Oren Shefet, Associate director for Clinical Services at the Counseling and Psychological Wellness Center at SUNY Old Westbury, recognizes the positive impact safe spaces have on many college students. However, he is concerned that enforcing some safe space policies, such as trigger warnings, might impinge on the academic freedom of professors.

“I’m a bit apprehensive about intruding on the academic freedom of professors,” said Shefet. “I would like trigger warnings to be a recommendation to professors, rather than a requirement.”

There are designated safe spaces on campus but little is done to promote awareness of these spaces and it is unclear if many students are even aware that they exist. SUNY Old Westbury does have a list the designated safe spaces on campus on the college website:

While there were no protests over the designation of space spaces at SUNY Old Westbury, UC Berkeley students held protests in October 2016 in favor of implementing more safe spaces for students of color in addition to LGBTQ+ students.

Commencement Ceremony 2018!

By Marcy Mendonca

The 2018 Commencement Ceremony is quickly approaching!

As the semester is rapidly coming to a close, OW seniors impatiently await the ceremony that will make them college graduates.

OW’s 52nd Commencement is different than any of its predecessors. Unlike previous Commencements, this year’s ceremony will be held at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, due to the growing student population, per an email from the office of the President.

This big change in venue has also led to other modifications to the usual schedule. Where previously two separate ceremonies were held, the change in scenery means that the college will be able to hold just one ceremony for all of the graduating students at 9am on Sunday, May 20th.

In addition, graduates will now receive eight tickets instead of the usual four, which is good news for those with bigger families! Students whose graduation applications have been accepted can pick up their tickets after the purchase of a cap and gown during the Commencement Celebration which will take place on May 9th and 10th in the Student Union.

As of press time, speakers have not yet been announced.

NEWS

From Tide Pods to “Finstagram”

By Kristin Brave

Are Millennials Responsible for the Spread of Social Media Trends?

Social media allows instantaneous access to the ideas, beliefs, and values of others across the world. Some of these ideas then turn into viral trends that people mimic on various social media platforms. Many of these trends are attributed to millennials and young adults. These trends can range from innocent “Finstagram” accounts to harmful challenges such as the “Tide Pod Challenge.” Since these trends



Rondada’s Finsta Account

are seen by large amounts of people in a short amount of time, it’s important that they have a positive impact, especially on impressionable younger generations.

Alana Hutchings, a twenty-year-old Instagrammer with over 10,000 followers, recognizes the effects that social media trends have on the public. “It’s been unanticipated how powerful social media trends have become in recent years and how much conversation they’ve sparked in national media outlets,” she said. “Going forward as millennials we should be aware of the profound effects of media and sup-

port more meaningful movements.” Social media trends play a role in the advertising and marketing industries with advertisers trying to reach younger audiences via millennial trends.

One of many social media trends that millennials are usually associated with are Finstagrams. Finstagram (Finsta for short) is defined by Urban Dictionary as “a mixture of Fake & Instagram.” People, usually girls, get a second Instagram account along with their real Instagrams, or Rinstagrams, to post funny or embarrassing pictures and videos. Only your closest friends follow this account. This is different from a typical Instagram account because there is less effort required in each post. For example, when posting to a Finstagram one can take a picture using the Instagram camera and simply post it without hesitation or even putting a filter on the picture. Young people don’t have to worry that these posts will be seen by the public or future employers.

Rhonda Elfiky, a college student at SUNY Buffalo, has had a Finstagram for about one year. She has used Instagram for years since the app first came out and enjoys how fun and lighthearted Finstagram is. “Finsta is such a big trend since social media nowadays is more of a news network rather than just your close friends,” she said. “Having just your close friends only see your posts means you can act like yourself and it’s nice to have that for

a change.”

A more dangerous social media trend is the Tide Pod Challenge. This challenge requires an individual to eat one of Tide’s popular laundry detergent pods. It is still unknown how the trend started, but it has gone viral on social media sites like Twitter and YouTube. This challenge has become so well-known that New York State lawmakers have proposed legislation that would require Tide to change the colorful packaging of their laundry detergent pods to be less colorful and look “less appetizing” to prevent teenagers from consuming them. Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas and State Sen. Brad Hoylman aim to further childproof Tide Pods in the state of New York.

Fake tweets purporting to be from Tide’s official twitter account were photoshopped by an unidentified source and have since gone viral much to Tide’s dismay.

Tide used their own tweets and videos to try to manage the viral Tide Pod crisis. But it’s hard to out tweet the number of posts spreading this craze. “Negative and harmful trends like the Tide Pod Challenge are unhealthy results of media crazes,” said Hutchings. “It is always concerning to realize that people your age will do something crazy for social media.”

Parents have previously been warned about the dangers that Tide Pods pose to

young children. In 2013, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a press release warning parents to keep brightly colored Tide Pods away from their small children’s mouths. Now parents are being warned to keep



A fake tweet that went viral at Tide’s expense.

these Tide Pods away from their teenagers mouths as well.

Questions still remain over whether these phenomena are new trends or are just being displayed to larger amounts of people via social media. Prior to the advent of the Internet and social media, teenagers and young adults would create trends within their groups of friends. These trends could spread to more people but didn’t have the nearly the same effect as a viral social media craze today.

Colorism Sure Is Ugly

By Lyric Morton

From the time dark-skinned girls are born, they are at a disadvantage. Young, dark-skinned black girls are bullied and told that they are not beautiful, not good enough or undesirable. They are told that if they had lighter skin they would be more appealing, creating deep-rooted emotions of anger, jealousy and insecurities that form part of who they become. This issue has been reinforced in our culture through multiple forms of media including advertisements, social media, especially Twitter and Instagram, and on television.

Akiah Conliffe is a black female, dark-skinned and 20 years-old. In elementary school, because of where she lived, the students were all white. Conliffe and her cousin were the only black people in the school. The kids would play with her hair because of the different texture. Based on the texture of their hair, black

girls would receive different kinds of backlash. "Growing up there's the different kind of black, people would say, the ones with the mixed hair and the ones with the nappy hair," she said.

As she got older the experiences intensified. "In high school, most of my friends were lighter skinned. One time, somebody said 'You're actually pretty too.' Even though they tried to make it seem like it was a compliment, it was not a compliment because it's like it's expected for me not to be pretty because I'm not the same complexion as the rest of the people who are in my group of friends," Conliffe said. She believes that there should not be different kinds of black based on skin color, it should just be black without discrimination. With the advancement of social media and different movements including black girl magic, she thinks it's become easier for girls with darker color to have more confidence in how they look.

Although it manifests itself in different ways, colorism affects men as well. Pete Badger, 28, is a black male who is light-skinned but does not like to be referred to as being light-skinned. "I'm not going to refer to myself as being a light-skinned person," he said. "My lightness is because Europeans

raped my ancestors, they tried to dilute my African heritage, and it won't work, because I'm from the people of the sun... I'm super pro-black." Growing up, he noticed that his white friend's family members embraced him more than they would embrace other friends who were dark-skinned.

White people in general, even Hispanics, feel significantly more comfortable making blatantly racist comments in front of him as opposed to a darker-skinned person.

Badger started realizing that it's more colorism than racism. People would rather look past the tattoo on his face than accept a person who has a

dark complexion. "A lot of radicals, Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, who was light-skinned, a lot of lighter black people are more likely to speak up because you're heard more," he said. "If I'm darker I can be in a certain situation, but I'll never

hear any of the behind the scenes racism. Because they're gonna look at you and think 'I'm not going to say any of this in front of this nigga.' With me, I can really hear some of the evil shit that someone like my brother would never hear because he's darker." This is why Badger always speaks up when racist comments are made in front of him.

Doctor Lisa Whitten, associate professor of psychology at SUNY Old Westbury, traces the origins of colorism back to slavery. "Because the people that were brought over from the continent and enslaved were very dark-skinned people, and they were seen as less than human, I think that's just persistent in systemic ways so that it's built into the fabric of how we view people," she said. "During slavery, people who were mixed did get preferential treatment often. People began to hold those individuals in high regards because of the fact that people that we can see, that have most of the power, are white people." Addressing the perpetuation of these stereotypes in the digital age, Whitten said "I think this is a really critical issue for us as black people in this day and age. I think that if we continue to battle against each other it weakens us. We have to find a way to overcome that."



Screenshot of tweet discussing colorism.

Source: @Chicahua_Yaotl

Revenge Porn Hurts

By Lyric Morton

Imagine sending your boyfriend a sexy photo and then the next thing you know that photo is on the internet for hundreds or thousands of people to see. Revenge porn has increased along with the surge of social media and this is happening to young girls every day.

Kim Kardashian built an empire based on the emergence of her sex tape. MiMi, from the reality show Love and Hip-Hop, released a sex tape as well. In Kim Kardashian's case, supposedly the release of the tape was a mistake. MiMi's tape was intentionally released by her and her partner for capital gain. Recently a video went viral of Blac Chyna, a former stripper who is now highly popular on social media, performing oral sex on a former partner of hers. Previously, her ex-boyfriend Rob Kardashian posted nude photos of her to the internet because of an argument they were having.

Young people are increasingly exposed to graphic sexual content due to its accessibility on the internet. Mimicking celebrities, girls and women take nude photos of themselves and send them to their boyfriends. When the relationship goes south, these young men often grow angry and release these photos on the internet through social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter.

Sometimes, girls will even release nude photos of their peers simply because they do not like them. There are specific pages on Instagram and Twitter devoted to exposing young girls. Not only cruel, this practice is also illegal.

Sandy, who asked to be identified by a pseudonym due to the sensitive nature of the topic, is one of these girls. She was in 8th grade at the time and was in a group chat on Instagram with three other guys. One of the guys was dating a girl who was only in 7th grade. They had been arguing so he thought it would be funny for Sandy and the other guys participating in the Instagram chat to create an Instagram page to post nudes of his girlfriend. Sandy created the page and after he sent the nude photos of his girlfriend in the group chat she posted one of them onto the page.

"Me being dumb... I just posted it. I just didn't like her," she said. "She knew it was me because I guess her boyfriend told her. He tried to blame everything on me... We was being evil, I don't even know why." The victim told her mom, who brought the incident to the principal's attention the next day. "The one that I posted she had a thong on. You really could not tell it was her,"

Sandy said. "The next day the rumor was that she had created the account herself to post her nudes. I told one of my friends I felt so bad that I had did that. Next thing I knew I heard my name on the loudspeaker."

When Sandy was called to the office she had to explain her actions to the principal, assistant principal, her mom and police officers, who were present because this act is considered child pornography. "She looked sad all day," Sandy said of the victim. "After I felt bad. When you're doing something you may not feel that bad but after, it's like 'Damn, I really just did that?' Her eyes were puffy and red and her cheeks were too." Sandy was suspended from school for a week, lost her phone privileges for a week, and was grounded for a month due to her actions. Listen to Carla tell her story on oldwestburycatalyst.org

On the other side of the equation are the victims. Carla, also a pseudonym, was 14 years old when her boyfriend posted a nude photo of her on Instagram. "I was asleep and I just wake up to all these text messages of him just accusing me of talking to other guys. We were already bumpy because he had been cheating on me over the summer. He said he was going to expose me," she said. "He posted the picture on Instagram and I asked him if he could take it down. At this point I'm not even me anymore, like I'm totally broken down emotionally, like my heart was just broken."

Carla texted her boyfriend and he didn't reply. He then asked her to stop texting him. "I felt so betrayed," she said. Back at school everyone hated him. They were commenting under the picture "take it down." The photo was a picture of her standing in front of a foggy mirror, with just enough of the steam wiped off the mirror to expose her breasts. He was threatening to post more pictures.

Carla felt sick to her stomach. She did not go to school for a week. She laid on the couch all week, unable to eat due to how nauseous she was over this. Her boyfriend eventually texted her apologizing, expressing how much he loved and missed her. She took him back but they later broke up, prompting him to post another picture on his Facebook cover page.

This time it was a picture of her naked, from behind, lying on the bed. Carla didn't react and he eventually took it down. She no longer speaks to him and like many other victims of revenge porn, she never pursued legal action.

Black Hair Bias in the Workplace

By Shatasia Fields-White

Many black women face discrimination in the workplace. Often this discrimination is related to them wearing their hair in its natural state. Black women are told that their natural hair appears unkempt and that they should wear weaves or straighten their hair to appear “professional.” The hair that grows out of your head is acceptable for other races but is frequently considered unacceptable for black women. This issue has been gaining visibility recently after several high-profile incidents that received widespread media attention, including a case that may be heard by the Supreme Court where an Alabama woman is alleging that a job offer was rescinded after she refused to cut her dreadlocks.

One irony of this issue is that not only do people of other races discriminate against black women based on their hairstyles, but black people do as well. “I am a manager of a residential program and when I wear my natural hair in meetings, in a ponytail at times,

and my own supervisor will ask me ‘What’s wrong with your hair? Why don’t you go straighten it?’” said Tanya Bates, a black woman who asked to be identified with an alias out of concern for possible retribution at work. “I just think to myself, it’s my hair that grows out of my head, why do you have an issue with it?” Bates also said that not only did the question irritate her, but what made it worse is that her supervisor is a black woman herself, who straightens her hair, which is naturally curly.

Women of other races wear their natural hair freely so, why is this not the case for black women? The answer may be deeper than just not liking the way someone’s hair looks, but about systemic racism. Ayanna Harrison, a hair stylist who specializes in natural hair for black women and who is black herself, often has conversations with clients on the topic of hair in the workplace. “Many women come in and talk about how they love their natural hair, but also

mention that it is a lot to manage and that they are always questioned at work about it,” she said. “They’ll explain that when they wear weaves everyone loves their hair but when they wear their natural hair everyone complains or acts as if they’re looking at something odd.” Harrison also has clients of other races who come in requesting natural black hairstyles. She does what they ask but feels that it’s cultural appropriation and that it shouldn’t be acceptable for other races to wear, especially since it’s not acceptable for the black women who created it.

Hair is something that serves as a way for people to express themselves. The feeling of joy that some women get from their hair is not something that they should have to give up or change to earn a spot in the workplace because their natural hair is deemed unprofessional. Hair for black women is something that gives them power and freedom, but too often it is made to seem like a burden rather than something to

be embraced like other cultures.

“I enjoy wearing my hair in braids and I also enjoy wearing my natural hair, but I’m Italian,” said Alexa Spinelli. “I personally do not think hair can be unprofessional. I think the people who tell others that are the ones who are unprofessional.” Spinelli mentioned that she is complimented when she wears styles from black women’s culture though she is not black herself.

This discrepancy reveals a racial power dynamic where non-black women can appropriate black hair culture by making it mainstream and trendy, but black women are not allowed to wear their own hairstyles proudly. Spinelli recognizes that she has the privilege to do as she wants with her hair as an Italian woman. “At work, I have never been judged about any style my hair has been in but I have heard others ridicule black women for their hair.”

Gun Violence: Years of Bloodshed and No Solution

By Eve Clerval

We wake up in the morning, follow our daily routines, and leave our homes for school or work. No one wakes up with the realization that this day could possibly be their last.

No parents would allow their children to attend school if they knew there was even a possibility that they could be hurt. It will never become a nuisance to speak up or defend “life,” but there is a striking moment of realization that the people in power are choosing not to protect us.

April 20th marked the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre. Two Colorado students (armed with four knives, two shotguns, and 99 explosives, amongst other weaponry) killed thirteen faculty and fellow

students, then themselves. On December 14, 2012, a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School taking the lives of twenty children and six adults. In 2018 alone, there have been seventeen recorded school shootings.

On January 20th in North Carolina a Winston Salem State University football player, Najee Ali Baker, was shot to death at a party on the campus of Wake Forest University. This was the first reported school shooting of 2018. CNN reported on a March 20th shooting in Lexington Park, Maryland where an “armed student shot two others at Great Mills High School before a school resource officer fired a round at the shooter and the shooter died.” Chris Wilson in his Time article “This Chart

Shows the Number of School Shooting Victims Since Sandy Hook” wrote that “there have been 290 recorded school shootings since Sandy Hook until now.”

People of all ages are learning to fear for not only their own lives, but for the lives of their mothers, their fathers, their sons, and their daughters. We know that life is naturally short and our fates are unavoidable. We cannot prolong the outcome because we cannot control how this happens. However, when that life is taken from us unnaturally by someone else’s judgment, this is an issue. Everyone says that the children are the future and over the past five years, we have lost too many.

After each and every one of these disasters, there have been debates upon

debates over our gun control laws. Today, we debate the same issue, we know the solution, but refuse to make it happen.

When will we find peace of mind? Will children ever get the chance to be children again? Our lives have been corrupted and now more than ever we need structure, we need a system of enforcement that we can trust to protect our children.

How will we ever have a secure future where we can trust our youth will be protected if they are being gunned down every other week by their own peers?

Homelessness: An Open Letter

By “Students Helping Students”

Homelessness is a social justice issue requiring advocacy on campus now.

The intersection of education, at risk housing, and hunger instability affect a student’s ability to succeed. Success in college should be based on skills and motivation not parental income or financial stability.

This semester in Psychology & Social Justice with Dr. Lisa Whitten a small team of students have undertaken the subject of homelessness and food insecurity tied to students on campus. The team is called “Students Helping Students - Homelessness a Social Justice Advocacy Effort at SUNY Old Westbury.”

As a social justice action project, the goal of the team is to bring awareness and educate students that homelessness, lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence affects how students perform academically.

In addition this intersecting inequality also touches on the issue of food insecurity. The end goal for the team is to deliver some small meaningful opportunities that can lead to change and positive outcomes for students lacking a “fixed nighttime residence” or students that are food insecure.

Recently it was noted that 65 percent of the 55 million jobs produced in the coming decade will require some

higher education or training, yet few resources are available to support students who come from backgrounds marked by experiences of homelessness or food insecurity.

The intersection of education and at risk housing and hunger instability affect a student’s ability to succeed. We want this inequality changed!

We need YOU to share your VOICE on how working together we can collaborate and make a positive change in our student community.

We believe that the solution should come from those directly dealing with homelessness or food insecurity.

We’d also like to hear and capture “your story” to share with the class. We believe that being able to speak for yourself and sharing your narrative will help others and foster change. Look for us through the month of April in the Campus Center building in the Atrium where you can contribute to a solution by signing our petition, taking a survey or sharing your narrative.

Feel free to contact the team advocates at:
 Kim Gamble: kgeorge1@oldwestbury.edu
 Cassie Grome: cgrome@oldwestbury.edu
 Susan Myers: smyers7@oldwestbury.edu
 Chris Sartoris: csartori@oldwestbury.edu

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL IS GROWING STRONG!

By Christian Priczak

Michael Krasnoff's first season as head coach of the women's basketball team at SUNY Old Westbury was 15 years ago. Krasnoff, his coaching staff, and the players have built a top notch program. This success didn't happen overnight. In his first five seasons at the helm, Old Westbury finished with a record of .500 or better three times. Their best record during that time was 15-9 in the 2005-06 season.

The record has improved since then: in 2010-11, the Panthers finished with their best record under Krasnoff, going 20-8. In the past three seasons, the team went 69-14. The Panthers have captured two Skyline Conference Championships and made the NCAA Tournament two times in the past three seasons.

Michael Krasnoff attributed the recent success to recruiting and hard work from the players.

"The success has been unbelievable and it's all through our recruiting and hard

work that our kids put in once we have them," Krasnoff said.

It is a challenge to build a championship team. "It's the recruiting," Krasnoff continued,

"It's trying to sell yourself, the school, [and] the program to kids and offer them nothing more than an opportunity to play for us and for me, the school. It's not an easy thing at the Division III level. It's extremely difficult. They say that being successful should make things easier. I'm not necessarily finding that's becoming easier. I find it's almost just lucky when you get a few kids in there that other kids that younger kids are maybe a year behind that they know or have a good relationship with that person and maybe that helps steer them in. It's very, very difficult task to get kids in here."

The recent success of the women's basketball team can be used as a selling point to lure incoming freshmen and transfer student-athletes. This works in

some cases, but it doesn't work all the time. "We certainly use that. We use it all we can," Krasnoff said, but:

"My point is that doesn't always work. In fact, here's a great point. I do a lot of my recruiting out of the PSAL [Public Schools Athletic League]. The PSAL is in the five boroughs and you would think high school seniors are aware that SUNY Old Westbury are successful the past three years. They're not. They don't have a clue because kids just don't investigate [and] they don't look unless they were really interested in this specific school, but that's not the norm."

All of the hours of recruiting and watching game film are worth it when the team ends the season with a Skyline Conference Championship. Old Westbury captured their first conference championship in the 2015-16 season. For Krasnoff, it's a bittersweet moment seeing the players climb the ladder to cut down the net after a Skyline Conference Champi-

onship win. "There's nothing better than that," says Krasnoff,

"Getting the opportunity, not for me to climb the ladder, but watching everyone of our student-athletes taking their turn stepping up that ladder with that scissor in hand and getting a chance to cut the net. Of course, there's a bunch of them that aren't aware of this feeling. Only our returners there this year knew what it was like, so that drives the newer players like the freshmen and the transfers who never had an opportunity to do something like that aren't even aware of how exhilarating it is to get a chance to do that. Now watching them getting the opportunity to do it and to watch the expression on their face is priceless."

It's been almost two months since Old Westbury's last game, but the grind never ends. The student-athletes are training for next season and Michael Krasnoff is still recruiting.

MICHAEL KRASNOFF'S COACHING JOURNEY AT SUNY OLD WESTBURY

By Christian Priczak

It's been a successful 18 years for Michael Krasnoff as the head coach of the women's basketball team at SUNY Old Westbury. He originally joined as part of Joe Gugliero's staff in 2000. Both were coaching out of an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) program prior to Old Westbury. Gugliero was impressed with the practices that Krasnoff ran and was interested in having him as an assistant coach.

Krasnoff, a native of Franklin Square, NY, took over as head coach of the team in 2002. Since then, the program has experienced lots of success, winning two Skyline Conference Championships. This past season, the program finished 23-4 and captured its second conference championship. The team also advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in the past three years.

After all the accomplishments Old Westbury has experienced under coach Krasnoff, there are moments where he sits back in his office and reflects on everything he has experienced in his tenure here.

"Each one of them is special like your own child, and I mean no different than your own child," Krasnoff said as he pointed at all the pictures of his former players hanging in his office. "Your relationship with them and how they grew as a person and as a player and how we keep in touch. They know on their birthday, they're getting a text from me wishing them a happy birthday. I enjoy doing this and they love that I remember. I don't forget. The family



SUNY OW vs St. Josephs

just grows. It's wonderful."

"It's just been a great ride and a lot of hard work. It's a grind, but we do it. It's a part-time position, but requires full-time energy to get your program at the level where it needs to be," Krasnoff continued.

Besides the measurable success, there are also other things that make Krasnoff proud to be a head coach. Some of the those things go beyond the offensive and defensive

schemes on the court; it's more than just scoring points and getting stops on defenses. "The other part of it is the life lessons that prepare you for a job when you're finished with school," Krasnoff said. "We have a lot of kids that didn't necessarily come from households that made demands on them as far as rules."

When he calls it a career, the thing that will stick with him the most is the growth of the program and the friendships he has developed with his current

and former players. "The first time we won the championship was a real nice thing," Krasnoff said. "A former player that I wasn't expecting came back through the door with a big smile. Those moments are unbelievable. They're right up there with cutting the net down."

ROD STEPHAN: FROM CORRECTION OFFICER AT RIKERS ISLAND TO OLD WESTBURY BASEBALL COACH

By Christian Priczak

Before Rod Stephan led his baseball teams to victories as a coach at SUNY Old Westbury and the collegiate level, he spent 20 years as a correction officer at Rikers Island. At 27 years old, Stephan took a civil services test following college. He was married and had three children, Robert, Jennifer and Matthew, and knew he had to make a living. At that time, the only experience he had in the field was working the Police Athletic League (P.A.L.). Through P.A.L., Stephan met Gary Krupsky, a former NYPD officer, who took him under his wing.

Stephan played under Krupsky from from age 12 up until he started at Queens College. While working with Krupsky, Stephan was an umpire at baseball games for young players. Krupsky mentored a young Stephan, inspiring him to pursue a career in corrections.

Stephan detailed his career as a correction officer, which consisted of 16 hour days. Each correction officer started out on a “wheel” that included working three different shifts. “The normal day when I started was an eight hour shift,” Stephan said. “When you start, you go on the wheel. You work from 8-4 then from 3-11 then you work a midnight (shift). One week of each. It’s difficult that you have to work those hours. In the beginning when I was there, it was very volatile and you basically were stuck for two tours everyday. You work 16 hours (in a day) then you went home. Six hours (after) you got home, you had to be back at work. You worked four (days) on and two off then you switched the tours. After the week (and) after the four weeks were over, you switched the tours.”

Stephan’s job consisted of going to the gates, relieving inmates for their meal, and working from cell-blocks to dorms. When he needed a steady tour schedule since he wanted to see his children, he went to his captain of personnel and asked him to assign him the worst dorm that no other correction officer wanted. Stephan described the dorm he volunteered to work in was as a dangerous environment where close to 10 stabbings a day occurred. There were 120 inmates in the dorm, including Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings and Ghetto Brothers.

“There were inmates setting beds on fire of other guys that are



Rod Stephan

sleeping,” said Stephan. “There are inmates that thanked me and prayed for me every night. Why? Because they could sleep when I was there because I would not allow that on my tour. No one got hurt on my tour for all the years that I worked,” he said.

He also worked on the probe team where he answered calls from people who were in distress. Stephan detailed an encounter he had, for which he was later awarded the Medal of Honor, where his body alarm went off as an inmate had a gun. With the officer’s mentality of serving and protecting, he sprinted towards the scene with just his bare hands. He didn’t have anything to protect him such as pepper spray, a knife, or a billy club. “There’s officers that said, ‘He’s got a gun. He’s got a gun,’” Stephan said.

“I’m going down Broadway, which is the main aisle, and I’m running and I’m going, ‘Throw it down. Throw it down.’ He turns and he’s got a 9 millimeter gun,” he said.

“He sees me and what do I do? It’s all iron beds on each side,” Stephan continued. “All the inmates are under the bed. There’s a guy shot in the corner. What did I do? I just

kept going. Luckily just before I got to him, he threw it and I tackled him. We recovered the gun and it was over, but he could have shot me dead. We’re there to protect them.”

After retiring from the NYC Department of Corrections in 2005, Stephan joined the SUNY Old Westbury men’s baseball coaching staff. Four years after joining the staff, he was promoted to head coach. Under Stephan’s tenure, the Panthers accumulated a 171-114-1 record. In 2015, the team claimed their first-ever Skyline Conference Championship and advanced to the NCAA New York Regional Tournament.

As a baseball coach, Stephan preaches respect to his players. “Respect all fear none,” he said. “Respect everyone. I always tell them to respect the umpire, the other team, your coaches, and your parents. Respect everybody and you’re going to be a better person for it. That’s all I want to be is a better person. I seen a lot of horrifying things. I did the whole thing at the World Trade Center where I worked on the clean up and everything. It’s just a horrifying thing. I want people to treat each other right and that’s what I want my team to do too.”

Through the lessons Stephan says brings to his players based off his previous experiences, he’s able to make a positive and lasting impact on them. While it’s a great feeling to have a significant impact, Stephan just feels he did his job.

“I’ve had a lot of players that will tell me, ‘After talking with you and the way you are, I want to coach,’” said Stephan. “I want to teach them to be positive. I’ve had guys that go to the police department and say I want to be cop now. I had guys that were in the academy department and say I don’t want to become a correction officer. I want to become a police officer.”

“There are a lot of guys in this school that they don’t know what they want to do with themselves,” Stephan said. “If I can steer them in the right direction on how to do things and to a productive life after they get their degree here - and my guys are getting their degrees, which is important - then I did my job. I had a lot of lawyers, accountants, [people] in business, and teachers. They’re doing good and they come back to games, which I love.”