

THE CATALYST

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“IGNITING THE MIND”

FREE

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS STILL PLAGUE CAMPUS

By Traci Newman

Students at Old Westbury are still facing technology problems on campus this semester. Lack of computer access, limited Wi-Fi and the continuing construction of the library are taking a toll on student studies.

Marc Seybold, Chief Information Officer at SUNY Old Westbury, says the main causes of the technology issues are coming from construction interference. With the library still under construction there is a “space crunch” on campus for computers.

The math lab which has been temporarily moved from the Academic Village over to the New Academic Building’s lower level computer labs is actually supposed to be set up in the library. One senior says, “Between the math lab and professors blocking out times for their classes in other labs it makes it hard to get the access I need to computers and printers.”

Seybold explains, “The NAB is still hosting the math lab and that is out of our control. Unfortunately the construction has been delayed. The library [where the math labs will be permanently located] was supposed to be completed six months ago.” He added, “We are short about 100-120 stations right now,” referring to the new Math Power Lab that is currently being built.

When the library construction is completed it will host the Power-Track Math Labs as well as the new Tech Commons. The Commons will host eighty new computer stations for students. According to Seybold and his team, there are approximately 400 computers throughout campus available for student use during construction.

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SNOWFALL AT OLD WESTBURY

By Joe Randazzo

The Snow has been relentless. In the first five weeks of school classes were cancelled for five and a half days, including one Friday. Mondays and Wednesdays were hit hardest. During one of the Wednesdays, the traveling conditions were so bad Governor Cuomo declared a State of Emergency for New York. To show just how much snow we have gotten, the Department of Transportation claims the State has used 46,000 tons of salt this season. The average annual total is 30,000.

With all the snow come the usual complaints about the school’s parking lots and sidewalks. An Alumni of Old Westbury, Megan Kapler, said of a post blizzard Old Westbury, “Snow made everything about campus inconvenient: parking, walking, cancellations. Walking was the worst because you would encounter areas that weren’t shoveled at all.”

New students had much of the same problems as the campuses’ alumni. “I was inconvenienced by the lack of preparation by the snowplows,” said first-year student Keith Keitel. “The sidewalks were poorly shoveled and it was really difficult to get to class. Even though I know everything’s gonna be okay, the school needs to step up its game when it comes to snow.”

According to one campus administrator, a reason for the unplowed parking lots has to do with residents not shoveling their cars out of spots and leaving them there. Due to this, plows are unable to do their job. The administrator says residents should be required to move their snowed in vehicles to the Clark



Center so the plows can open up more spots for commuters and staff members.

Another complaint students and staff had about this winter wonderland of a semester took place on the day of the first cancellation. The school wasn’t notified of the snow day until 10 a.m. Many felt this decision should have come earlier in the morning or even the night before. Mike Kinane, the assistant to the president for advancement, and one of the officials in charge of cancellation notices, explained that it’s tough to guess how much snow we’ll get.

“Once it was apparent that the afternoon and evening was going to be really rough, the decision was made as early as it could be,” he said. “There’s no good

answer because Mother Nature isn’t cooperative.”

The decision to cancel classes, according to Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Ronald J. Welton, is made by the president of SUNY Old Westbury in consultation with senior staff members. The decision is made as early as possible.

Two of the missed days will be made up on May 6th and May 8th. Welton said that faculty members and department chairs will decide the best ways to make up the remaining times.

Welton added that Patrick O’Sullivan, provost and vice president for academic affairs, has decided that days will not be subtracted from the spring break.

HAS SUNY OW REALLY GONE TOBACCO FREE?

By Evelyn Ortiz

As of January 1st, the Tobacco-Free SUNY policy was supposed to be in effect. However, people are still smoking near campus entrances. “This policy prohibits the use of tobacco products on grounds, facilities and in vehicle owned, leased or controlled by SUNY,” according to the policy. Are these students continuing to smoke because they are unaware or because they are just opting on rejecting the non-smoking policy?

If these students are unaware is it

because there is no enforcement on the policy or simply because the student body has not learned of the policy? Maybe such a drastic change should have been announced in a conference, sent in an email blast, have posters throughout campus in order to inform the students. Nothing is posted on the college homepage in reference to this and the only informant was *The Catalyst*. The only people who were aware of this policy when I interviewed people were those students who are student leaders, part of clubs, involved on campus, are a part of *The*

Catalyst, OW Radio Station or people that happen to have picked up November issue of *The Catalyst*. (Cont. on page 3.)

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Letter to the Class of 2014

I wish to inform you that I will be holding **Senior Committee Meetings** on February 25, March 11, 25; April 8, 15, 22, and 29. In addition, **Senior Portraits** will be held on April 9th and 10th; additional information on how to make appointments will be updated very soon.

** Announcements on Senior Portraits, Senior Yearbook, Senior Ball, and many more events will be announced very soon.

In addition, I wish to inform all undergraduate students who will have met all the degree requirements for May 2014 or August 2014 graduation, that graduation applications will be accepted from February 10, 2014 through March 3, 2014 via campus e-mail.

Undergraduate students who will meet all requirements for graduation as evidenced by the *CAPP report (degree audit) may send an e-mail from the CAMPUS E-mail account only to: GradApp@oldwestbury.edu using the format shown below. Please DO NOT send attachments or CAPP reports.

FORMAT:

Subject Line: Graduation Application

- 1-Student ID (aka 700# no spaces or hyphens):
- 2-Student name on school record:
- 3-Exact name as you want it to appear on your diploma
- 4-Diploma Mailing Address:
- 5-Apt # (if applicable):
- 6-City, State, Zip:
- 7-Best Contact Phone Number:
- 8- Please provide any information relevant to degree completion (i.e. name of advisor; pending grade change/incomplete; CLEP exam and/or study abroad supplemental transcript, etc.

Upon acceptance of the application, a \$10 graduation fee will be charged to the student record.

Applications for students not eligible to apply will be returned via CAMPUS E-MAIL.

Note: If you have previously applied for graduation and expect to complete requirements by May 2014, please do not reapply...contact GradApp@oldwestbury.edu to reactivate the application.

Sincerely,

Senior Class President, Tiffany Dildy

Has SUNY OW Really Gone Tobacco Free?

Cont. from Page 1

However, if people still decide to smoke and are aware of this policy and do not care to abide by the rules, what will the repercussions be? If I park in an illegal parking I get a ticket, so if I decide to smoke near entrances will I also get a fine? Or, are there no consequences yet for disobeying the policy? Though smoking has subsided a tad bit, both students and staff continue to smoke on campus.

During my discussions and interviews I encountered various responses in regards to the new no-smoking policy:

When asked: Did you know that as of January 1, 2014 the campus was supposed to be a smoke free environment, a student who preferred to remain anonymous responded: "Yes I was aware, and I believe that if a CUNY school can enforce this policy then why can't a SUNY school do the same? If students do not feel like this will be

enforced then they will continue to smoke. Also I wonder if Administration will enforce this even if they are smokers themselves."

Elaina is aware of the policy also but believes that "there is no true way to track who smokes on campus."

Marilyn is aware of the policy but opposes the regulation even though she is a non-smoker. "Power to those people who are rebelling. People should be able to choose if they want to smoke or not. Also I ask, what is the punishment?"

Bianca responded: "Wow, I was not aware of this policy. Banning smoking on campus does not really affect me however, now I don't have to smell the cigarette smoke. I am not really sure how I feel about people who continue to smoke however, if there is no fine or punishment people will continue to smoke on campus."

Natalie is a non-smoker and feels as though smoking should be up to the person and believes that there should

be designated areas. "The only reason why I was aware is because I hold a leadership position as a RHA. People will continue smoking if they do not start seeing tickets being issued, until this is enforced, they will not stop."

Mariyel stated: "Since this does not pertain to me then this may be why I was unaware of this policy. However, having a daycare on campus and having little children see people smoking is a bad influence and not only that second hand smoke is bad for peoples health. Furthermore, this pollutes the air and interferes with nature and also dirties the campus because fling their cigarette butts everywhere. Not only are students smoking still but so are the staff members of the campus."

Some students are in agreement with this policy while others believe smoking should be freedom of choice. The underlying question is, how will this policy truly be implemented and what will be the repercussion or punishment for smoking on campus?

Technology Problems Still Plague Campus

Cont. from Page 1

Addressing the limited Wi-Fi issues students are encountering, Seybold explained there are two types of Wi-Fi available. There is the 2.4 gig which can be crowded and the industrial ovens in Dunkin Donuts can cause interference with the service. Or there is the 5 gig which has much better service and works twice as fast, but any gadget that uses 2.4 will be unable to get any Wi-Fi access. The school currently has different modems allowing 2.4 and 5 gig users to access Wi-Fi but that is what causes the slowness. Seybold suggested that SGA could do a survey of students to see which Wi-Fi they would prefer and they could use that information to make future internet/Wi-Fi decisions.

The technology issues students are facing on campus are mainly being caused by the extremely delayed construction on campus. The library was supposed to be completed over six months ago. Until the new Math Lab and Tech Commons are available to students, they will continue to have limited access to the computers and printers they require and pay for in their tuition (technology fee).

Profile: Tyrik Tucker

By Kai Stoll

Tyrik Tucker's passion is infectious. You can see it in his eyes at all times, a radiant enthusiasm constantly showing in his face and his smile. He has a gracious vibe of Brooklyn confidence that one can't help but emulate when in his presence. He is the true definition of a leader, not only on the court but as a man, one of the many things that have made him the star that he is here at Old Westbury.

Tucker broke out as a star in the 2012-13 season, leading the Panthers to a 25-4 record and their first ECAC Metro Region Championship since 1987. He averaged 20.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 2.9 steals and 1.0 blocks per game, collecting numerous awards and achievements by season's end. He was named second team All-American by both the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and DIII News in addition to Player of the Year honors from D3hoops.com Atlantic Region, ECAC Metro Region and Skyline Conference. He was also named first team All-Atlantic District, D3hoops.com Atlantic Region, ECAC Metro Region, All Met and the Skyline Conference.

While any athlete would kill for a resume of that caliber, Tucker was left hungry in his pursuit of bettering himself as a player entering his senior year.

"I put in so much hard work during the summer. I was in the gym everyday working out with different trainers. I was really able to focus on basketball and just getting better."

Tucker's incredible play in the first half of the 2013-14 season proved just that, reminding everyone why he is regarded as one of the top guards in the country. Averaging 25.6 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.5 steals in just eight games, he cemented his selection as a

Division III preseason All-American, one of twenty-five players in the country to be recognized.

"We always felt that we could ask him to perform something specific, whether it was scoring, rebounding, playmaking etc." says Coach Bernard Tomlin. "There were a couple games where I just told him 'Tyrik, you've got to rebound tonight', and he would respond to that. It is very rare and very hard to replace athletes that can focus on a specific area, and are able to perform that way in a critical situation."

Tucker's fervor for the game of basketball helped him to overcome one of the toughest things that can happen to any athlete: being told they cannot play. Due to NCAA regulations stating that a student athlete may participate in no more than ten semesters of collegiate level sports, Tucker was informed he had exhausted his eligibility, and was therefore forced to sit out the second half of the season.

"Obviously I was devastated. I was angry. But everything happens for a reason. I couldn't dwell on it, I had to pick my head up and just move forward."

While this would obviously be a huge disappointment to any athlete who shares Tucker's passion for playing basketball, he saw it as an opportunity to transfer his leadership from the court to the sidelines. Tucker is now an undergraduate student assistant coach, guiding his fellow teammates to finish out what they had started with him in a jersey.

"It's kind of funny because now the roles are reversed. Now I'm sitting on the bench seeing how I probably used to look out there. I think it's a good transition for me as far as maturing as a person, and it will only help me learn more about the game."

Tucker's effectiveness as an assistant coach is made obvious by his contagious leadership skills and his natural ability to rally his peers as a team.



"It's fun just seeing my teammates out there, being able to watch them, if they're doing something wrong, correcting it and helping them get better."

The relationship between Tucker and Coach Tomlin has now evolved from a player and a coach, to colleagues working side by side. While Tucker looks to Coach Tomlin for guidance and mentorship, Tomlin can now look to Tucker for assistance in terms of relating to his players from a teammate's perspective. One can sense Coach Tomlin's deep pride in Tucker's accomplishments, and what he has done for this basketball team both on the court and on the sideline.

"With him being in the locker room, being one of the guys and his experience on the court, he can help me to relate to them in ways that only a teammate could," says Tomlin. "There is a very fine line between coaching someone and playing with them. I have already seen major improvements in how he views the game, and that means a lot."

"Coach keeps things simple," says Tucker. "Everything is a simple process, not too much extra going on aside from the game of basketball. Just staying on track, knowing what you need to do, and getting it done."

When faced with the task of firing up his teammates, Tucker's approach reflects that of a youthful enthusiasm that invigorates the team's mind and passion.

"We just start dancing," says Tucker with a smile.

This joyful and exuberant energy is such a key component to the Panther's success. The ability to help a team enjoy their playing experience is essential, and it is rare to find a player balance such leadership skills with competitive fire. However, any fierce competitor lives and dies to be out on that court. It is not difficult to see a fire in Tucker, a hunger that will always drive him to want to be out there balling with his teammates.

"I miss that brotherhood," he says, "being out there with your brothers at war. That's tough. It's an unforgettable feeling."

Tucker will graduate in May with a degree in psychology and an impressive academic record, including 2013 Skyline Conference Honor Roll and Dean's List. He will pursue a professional basketball career wherever it takes him, whether it is overseas or even trying his talent in the NBA Development League. No matter the destination, it is obvious that there are big things ahead for Tyrik Tucker. His talent on the court and his leadership on the sidelines is only a fraction of what this young man brings to the table, his future endeavors being accomplished with that energy and passion that has been his legacy at this school. He will be remembered here for so many things, yet it if it were up to Tyrik, there would be only one thing that would satisfy his legacy.

"Winning," he explains, "I just like winning. As long as they mention my name and know I wasn't losing I'd be happy with that."

I have a feeling that winning will only be the beginning of the conversation.

Not My Uncle, Sugar

By Laura DeMarzo

Apparently Democrats believe women cannot control their libidos—at least that is what outspoken GOP member Mike Huckabee would have you believe. On January 23rd, 2014, the former Arkansas governor, seemingly riding the momentum brought upon by his own inner narrative, proclaimed that the Democratic Party was persuading women to be “victims of their gender.” During a speech at the Republican National Committee’s winter meeting he went on to claim that President Obama’s plan for coverage of contraception costs, which he penned with the name “Uncle Sugar,” were insulting to American females, as that help assumes they cannot “control their libidos.”

In bi-partisan solidarity, many Americans were left with differing reactions, all from offended jaws ajar to simple befuddlement, as Huckabee’s statements failed to make much sense. In his proclamations, the former governor made it unclear other than the ceasing of free/affordable birth control, whether he was calling for abstinence, increasing the population or increasing the sales of condoms. There are many women who use contraception for regulation of their menstrual cycle, dermatological purposes and a plethora of other reasons, none of which are raging libidos—and lessening the burden of that expense is quite the opposite of insulting. In the case of sexually active women, the campus consensus doesn’t equate any funding to being gov-

ernment dependent victims of our gender.

Prescription contraception is, in fact taking ownership and control of our libidos, while ensuring themselves that their reproductive future is in their hands, rather than the hands of their partner. Just as we wouldn’t claim an asthmatic using a free prescribed inhaler of having raging, uncontrollable lungs and just as they wouldn’t be offended by the cost of said inhaler, women don’t seem to find contraceptive funding offensive.

Beyond that fuzzy vernacular, a redundant sense of hypocrisy is palpable. One can’t help but find Huckabee’s comments reminiscent of the proposed defunding of Title X, (a law passed in 1970 that funds family planning for some 5 million citizens) in 2011. This was when GOP members, attempted to please the right-wing, pro-life sect under the guise of necessary budget cuts. *Time* magazine contributor Nancy Gibbs noted, “Consis-

tency is the true test of conviction; anything less is just prejudice dressed up as principle. If pro-life lawmakers kill Title X, they need to accept either the risk of increasing the abortion rate or the cost of growing numbers of children born to poor parents.”

This sentiment holds true for Mike Huckabee and his recent remarks. Condemning contraception coverage to promote budget cuts, without taking into consideration the cost of government funding for an unplanned pregnancy and subsequent child is abhorrently contradictory. In the age of technology and sound-bites, politicians must make conscious efforts to not be carried away by the celebratory chants of their supporters. They cannot simply spew utterances, for the opinion of the audience sitting in front of them of does not echo the opinion of the nation.

Meet NYC Mayor, Bill De Blasio

By Ian Hnatov

As New Yorkers make our way into the New Year, a recently-elected politician moves into the New York City mayoral office, taking over from Michael Bloomberg, who served the Empire City for twelve years. The man who has been chosen as his successor is Manhattan native, 52 year-old Bill De Blasio.

De Blasio is the first Democrat in the mayoral office in over twenty years, since David Dinkins rounded out his tenure in 1993. Prior to serving as NYC mayor, De Blasio held office of New York City Public Advocate (2010-13) and held the position New York City Council member, representing the 39th District in Brooklyn.

De Blasio won his 2013 election in a landslide, garnishing over seventy-three percent of the vote. This demolition of the Republican candidate, former deputy mayor Joe Lhota, resulted in one of the most lopsided victories in the city’s history.

Before we dive into what De Blasio will be doing in office, we must first take a look at who the man is and how he came to be the mayor of the “Big Apple”. De Blasio was born “Warren Wilhelm Jr” to Maria and Warren Wilhelm, of Italian and German descent, respectively. Although born in Manhattan, De Blasio was raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts. De Blasio is the youngest of three children and although he was baptized as a Catholic, the new mayor claims to be nonpracticing.

Resulting from his heritage, De Blasio

can also speak a second language, Italian. De Blasio’s father, Warren Sr., was an Officer in the Pacific army and served many tours in World War II, including Okinawa. When Warren Sr. returned from service he was clearly distraught, suffering from both physical and mental pain, in addition to being an alcoholic. Warren Sr. and Maria divorced when de Blasio was 8 years old, which had a profound affect on his life. De Blasio proceeded to be raised by his mother; Warren Sr. passed away in 1979. Although born with the same name as his father, “Bill” and “Billy” were always a nickname of De Blasio and his name was legally changed in 2002 to what we know today.

De Blasio is a graduate of the famed New York University, earning a bachelors degree in Metropolitan Studies. He then attended Columbia University, where he received his Master’s in International Affairs.

While running for Public Advocate in 2008, De Blasio was praised for his efforts to improve public schools and help less-fortunate New Yorkers with food stamps, housing, and children’s health. Due to his progressive and humanitarian views, he has received endorsements from well-respected community members such as former Mayor Ed Koch, former Governor Mario Cuomo, and Reverend Al Sharpton. These endorsements have helped De Blasio much, in the public eye. De Blasio was rewarded with his election into Public Advocacy office, citing deficiencies in



Mayor De Blasio and his family

Bloomberg’s policies on homelessness and education.

Inaugurated to mayoral office on the traditional date of January 1st, 2014, de Blasio became the 109th mayor of New York City. He beat out eight other candidates to be the choice of the Democratic Party and he certainly did not disappoint, winning the Mayoral job with ease.

De Blasio, during his campaign, showed some of his moxy, joining a protest of the closing of the Long Island College Hospital. De Blasio was arrested and released with a summons of disorderly conduct. This was a pivotal event for de Blasio, as it showed his true character and his resonation with the working class. His poll numbers immediately soared.

De Blasio used this event, plus a strict opposition to “stop and frisk” laws to lock up his election. He also, in December (before his Inauguration), stated that he would be outlawing horse-drawn carriages in the city, which obviously was uber-popular with animal rights advocates. De Blasio, during his Inauguration speech, he

reiterated his plans to end both social and economic inequalities, two extremely prominent and relevant issues to NYC residents.

De Blasio, in addition to being a dedicated professional and an efficient politician, has a happy family-life that certainly encompasses the culture of the most diverse city in the world. De Blasio, who stands as the tallest mayor New York City has ever had at 6’6”, married his best friend, Chirlane McCray. McCray is African-American, providing the mayoral office with its first interracial couple. McCray has berthed two children with De Blasio, daughter Chiara and younger brother, Dante. Both children attended public schools and reside in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Running NYC, of course, is a daunting task, but one that instills much pride and joy. We live (near or) in the greatest city on the face of the earth and Bill De Blasio is the man who will guide us into a prosperous, educational, and safe future. Welcome Bill De Blasio to New York City!

My Grandfather

By Joe Randazzo

The hardest part of my grandfather's death wasn't watching nurses shuffle out of his hospital room with a glum look on their faces. It was going back inside and seeing his body lifeless in a bag with a zipper under his neck. Death isn't as eventful as it is on television or movies. It's blunt and to the point. Last words have no meaning, nobody goes out with their final cigarette, Jesse doesn't ride away in a sports car, and there are no camera pans while songs such as "Baby Blue" fade into the credits.

That night my parents, sister, grandmother, uncle, and I visited my grandfather in the hospital. Going in none of us knew it was going to be the last time though. We thought he would pull through like he usually did. He was sickly but we all sat, talked, and watched *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* together. When it got late, my grandfather told everyone to leave. My uncle and I decided to stay though. Even when the two of us made that decision we didn't consciously think this was it and he needed someone there with him. It just felt like something we needed to do. Looking back now, I think we did know. We just couldn't come to terms with it.

Once my family left, that's when it got bad. My grandfather's blood pressure dropped and his lungs started to fill up with water. He was barely able to speak and it pained him to breathe. When he did say something it was to ask what time it was. This is when it hit that my grandfather was dying. It was only a little after 11:30 p.m. and he kept asking my uncle if it was 4 a.m. Now, the body only hallucinates under three conditions and one of them is right before you die. (The other two are near death experiences, and fun stuff.) I knew he was about to hallucinate

because stage one is that things become really slow.

This part of the story only makes sense if I talk about mushrooms. (Francis Crick discovered the structure of the DNA molecule and he did LSD. We'd be dumber than normal if he just said no.) Any time a person takes mushrooms an hour or so before the peak everything slows down, almost to a halt. During a friend's trip, he asked me if it was 4 a.m. when it was around 11:30 p.m. -- the same time my grandfather was asking. The reason for the hallucination is because, as you're about to die, your brain's pineal gland pumps out this hallucinogenic compound called dimethyl-tryptamine- or DMT for short. Don't be fooled by this fact by the way. I'm not that smart. The only reason I know this is because I'm regurgitating something I've heard one of my favorite comedians, Joe Rogan, say 1,000 times on the Opie and Anthony Show and his podcast. (Coincidentally he isn't that smart either. He's just regurgitating something he heard the psychedelic adventurer and ethno botanist, Terrence McKenna, say 1,000 times.)

I didn't want to tell my uncle about my revelation. For one, what if I was wrong? And two, I'd rather not explain to him how I was moderately versed in psychedelics. This wasn't the time or the place to, as McKenna called it, come out of the "psychedelic closet." For the next hour I sat there and watched as my grandfather's condition worsened. I'm sure my Uncle knew what was about to happen but he was at least holding out hope. Not to sound like the hardened curmudgeon cop in cheesy 80's movies like *48 hours* but, I knew that hope was lost that night.

In my grandfather's final hour I had one of the better laughs I've ever had considering how grim the moment was. During what seemed to be my grandfa-

ther's natural DMT trip, he kept telling my Uncle and me that he was baking clams – something he loved to do. While he was in a better place than that hospital and in the middle of his happy trip, the nurse, who ironically was the face of beefy unhealthiness, barged into the room and asked how he was doing. Her poke to get his attention brought him back to earth. Suddenly it hit my grandfather where he was. He looked over in disgust and said, "Ughh you stink." I laughed. She wasn't happy.

When I think of that night I don't associate it with sadness anymore. Shortly after my grandfather made fun of the nurse, he passed away. Him telling the nurse she stinks will forever stand out to me for two reasons. His insult had a weird, serendipitous, synchronicity to it.

You see, my friends and I love New York's comedy scene. Whenever we go to the Comedy Cellar in Greenwich Village we only go to see shows Keith Robinson is on. He's just a mean person and we have become obsessed with the rotten way he so casually goes about telling people they stink. My whole life I have never heard my grandfather tell anybody they stink – let alone say it the same way a big black man from South Philly does.

As funny as that was, I got a South Park-ish Stan lesson from his, "You stink." Our whole life we're taught there are times to be serious and there are times to have fun. Apparently if you don't follow these strict rules then you're deemed "immature" and unsuitable for adulthood. Well, I'd love for someone to tell a dying man he's being immature because the harsh circumstances of the moment called for stern attitudes. I learned if you can be funny on your deathbed, there are no situations where funny can't exist. Those people who think otherwise are just living wrong. (They're also probably jealous nobody thinks they're fun. For every Zoe Barnes, there's always going to be some brooding *Washington Herald* editor unhappy with someone who has figured it out.)

Also, anybody who dictates when fun is to be had, falls low on the Atticus Finch scale of integrity. As we learned from Harper Lee in *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, Atticus is "The same in his house as he is on the public streets." It's how Atticus Finch lived and it's how my grandfather lived too. My grandfather never put on a mask whenever he left his house. He was a good person but that was just naturally him.

Despite how good natured he was, if you told him you did something he felt was dumb like voting, he laughed at you. Any man who lives as Atticus knows nobody puts on a shinier mask outside the house than a politician. If you tried to explain to my Grandfather your reason for voting, he'd ask why you enjoy being lied to. It doesn't matter where you stand politically; left, right, in the center, Democrat, Republican, Obama or Romney – you weren't leaving the conversation without feeling like you were a glutton for political punishment. (You shouldn't need an old man telling you it's all just a House of Cards either.)

I don't know if I have gotten better or worse after my Grandfather passed away. He wasn't just an old guy where you expected this to happen. In some ways he felt younger than me. This is a weird world now where God-forbid you act out, or go against somebody's beliefs; it will somehow be spun into some sort of intolerant, sexist, homophobic, racist rant by Gawker like they just did to Jerry Seinfeld. I'm sure if some 5'5 nerd from Gawker was in the hospital room the night of my Grandfather's passing the headline would be: SEXISM IN THE ELDERLY: WHY WE MUST NOT STAND FOR INTOLERANCE DURING THEIR FINAL HOURS.

My grandfather didn't care about what other people thought of him, and I hope to have that courage. It seems like the right way to live despite how scary it is to go against the current robotic definition of being normal.

Lowered Expectations

By Alex Susskind

Since before the Internet, men have struggled to find a balance between the snobby woman with an over inflated sense of self-worth and the overly clingy "crazy girl." With the recent rise of online dating sites such as "OkCupid" and "Plenty of Fish," men like me can now view countless potential matches in our search for the perfect future ex-girlfriend. Because of this generation's affinity for social media and internet distractions, the online dating concept is a great fit for the many of us who lack the necessary social skills for a fulfilling, non-awkward lifestyle.

In my experiences with the online dating world, if someone seems too good to be true: you're darn right they are! The first type of woman to watch out for is the "smoking hot" type. Every guy gets excited when they see that blonde bombshell

show up in their matches. But do you really think someone that good looking would have such real life dating woes that they would resort to online dating—unless they have major baggage? Don't get me wrong, I get just as excited over a beautiful woman as the next guy—but I also try to be realistic. Before you message that hottie, think about the tradeoff.

The next type of woman to watch out for is the overly clingy "crazy girl." This type of girl will fall madly in love with you right away, for no good reason. This type is the most likely to message you first—and often. I briefly dated one of these types not too long ago (We'll call her Natasha.) Always be wary of a woman who messages you first. Maybe she's just confident enough to go against the age old gender norms, but she's most likely just bad news. However, as annoying and aggravating as this type can be, nobody will appreciate you the way a crazy girl will. Crazy girls are



The Guardian

the only type of girls who truly appreciate being treated nicely.

To change gears a bit, also watch out for non-dating site social media clingers. That freshman girl who mass likes your pictures can be tricky. (We'll call this girl Janis.) If you play your cards right you can get her. But be aware that she may just be an immature tease looking for attention. Those constant kissy heart emoji's and mushy nicknames she uses in her mes-

sages and comments could be a green light, but they could also just be her inner annoying high school girl coming out.

If you decide to take the plunge and enter the world of online dating, remember that the smoking hot match and the woman who messages you first, and is really into you, are possibly too good to be true. Keep your cynicism high and your expectations low.

Once Upon a Gap

By Traci Newman

As a little girl I had an adorable smile with all my cute baby teeth. Honestly, it was a great smile. Then the tooth fairy came and what grew in were horribly-crooked and gapped teeth, which left me with some very embarrassing, awkward school photos. Most of these pictures have been lost or destroyed.

Around eleven-years-old, against my will, my mother forced me to the orthodontist and I was given a three year sentence with metal braces. I hated everything about them. I hated my doctor, hated the metal in my mouth; and they looked horrible and hurt like a bitch. Remember the rubber bands?

Looking back it was definitely the worst three years of my adolescence, but realistically I need to thank my mother. I'm so grateful that she spent over \$3,000 dollars and put up with all my crying. She even allowed me to eat as much ice cream as I wanted every month when they tightened my braces because it made me feel better.

I was probably a drama queen when it came to my braces. But anyone that has had them will agree they hurt. Don't lie, you know they did. Finally around fourteen, I was able to have the braces removed. It is literally one of the weirdest and most liberating experiences. After



Model Georgia May Jagger

Picture from Glamour UK December 2012

having had that hard-scratching metal in your mouth for years and now being able to feel your smooth slick teeth, it's wonderful.

But after the braces are ripped off, it's not over yet. You then have to wear a retainer to keep your teeth in place. I was given one of those plastic kind-of-but-not-really clear ones that all your spit gets stuck in and makes you talk with a lisp. You have to take it out during lunch, and then brush your teeth before you put it back in. Of course being the stubborn teenager that I was, I was just not having that. I pretty much refused to wear my retainer to school and would only wear it at night, sometimes.

Being the little rebel that I was and never wearing my retainer led to my teeth shifting. Obviously my orthodontist was mad. My mom, who spent thousands of

dollars on me, was rightfully angry. I can admit this all now, but obviously back then at fifteen years old it wasn't my fault, and I would scream, "Mom! No one else wears their retainers!" Being a teenager sucks so much, you're just wrong about everything.

Since I basically never wore my retainer, I was left with this large gap between my teeth. My teeth were luckily still straight but the gap was noticeably big. I despised it so much and would cry over it. But the only person to blame was me. I considered paying for Invisalign (clear plastic braces similar to retainers) or maybe getting them bonded. I really had no idea what to do; I was just so distraught over it. I made sure that I always turned my head to the side in pictures in hopes to hide it. Some girl from high school even called me a, "gap-toothed bitch." Again, teenagers really are the worst ever.

Trust me; I'm not a lucky person. But thankfully by the grace of God or something, as I got older my teeth started to shift closer together. I tell people it's because my wisdom teeth grew in, but I seriously have no idea why. But I feel like an angel flew into my mouth and made it better. There is still a gap, but now it's cute and really not too noticeable. I actually grew to like it and accepted it. I think it gives me character. I decided that it was "my thing," and it separated me from my friends, with their perfect straight teeth.

Lately, "the gap" has been trending. Celebrities and models everywhere are showing off their gaps. Michael Strahan, former NFL player has a huge gap, and he's always smiling. True Blood's, Anna Paquin who plays Sookie Stackhouse has

made the gap super sexy. Rimmel London's mascara ads feature close-ups of model Georgia May Jagger, which caused much debate because of her large gap, and those ads are all over the place. Even major women's magazines like, Cosmo have written articles about it. You can Google "celebrities that have a tooth gap" and find tons of results, like Michelle Obama and Madonna. The list goes on and on. Even Buzzfeed is "listing" about it.

Part of me is ecstatic about all the gap trending. It makes me feel like I fit in and that it's actually really cool to have a gap. At one point I even thought about ripping the pages out of Cosmo and sending the article to the mean girl from high school and telling her to, "F*ck off." But then part of me is a little bothered. I really felt like the gap between my teeth was MY thing.

Obviously I'm not the only person in the world to ever have messed up teeth. But it became my little thing that I liked about myself. It was my imperfection that made me stand out. I'll compare it to when one of your favorite bands has all these amazing songs that you've know about forever and ever and you just can't get enough. Then the songs are played on the radio and even though you're so happy for the band, because they're your absolute favorite, you're actually kind of pissed at the same time. Because now you know everyone will be singing their songs and it will be over-played, and somehow those songs will lose their epic meanings. That's how I feel, as happy as I am that "the gap" is in-style, I found it first. It was my thing.

OPINION

Willie Lynch: A Prophecy Fulfilled

By Malcom Bowser

Black History Month is a time when African Americans are supposed to relish in the rich abundant history of their people and should be learning from the great people who came before us. Instead, we are playing into the plan a slave owner who lived over 300 years ago set in motion.

A man by the name of Willie Lynch, a plantation owner from the West Indies, came to the colony of Virginia in 1712 and purportedly delivered one of the most powerful and devastating speeches in American history, "The Making of a Slave." In his address (which some historians consider a hoax) he attempted to outline a plan he felt was proven to control the slave population and blacks themselves "for at least 300 years," and our behavior as a people has made him a prophet.

Willie Lynch spoke about pitting the slaves against one another to further solidify to slave master's control. In his own observations he found differences in his own slaves and put them against each other and manipulated them like a puppet master. He took young against the old, light against dark skin, and male against female.

Today in the year 2014 we are still following his plan to perfection because we as a people find more and more ways to fight each other for individual control when the picture is much larger. Throughout history

humans have always found a way to differentiate themselves to create groups, religiously, linguistically, culturally, etc. Lynch played upon this basic human trait and used it for his benefit and he shared this idea with other slave owners.

The amazing fact is not that he discovered this, but how this ideal is still in effect today without shackles or whips to enforce it. How is it 300 years later there are still disputes over what generation in the African American community is worse (young vs. old)? Or how listening to Drake and not being what is considered a tough guy is a "light skin thing" (light skin vs. dark skin). And how is it, after three centuries black men and black women still in many cases cannot find common ground and put aside differences for the betterment of the family structure (male vs. female).

It is almost absurd to think about all the prominent Black voices in African American history like Fredrick Douglas, W.E.B. Dubois, Dr. King, or Malcolm X and come to the realization that an alleged speech by a slave owner had an arguably strong effect on blacks in this country. Why is that? It is because we, as a collective, have not done our homework and seen how the actions we take repeat history.

The year 2014, more than 300 years since the Willie Lynch speech, is the time to undo the damage done by a man who could not see our people's greatness.

OPINION

Honoring Black History Month

By Nzingha Z. Crusoe

Black History Month started by Carter G. Woodson in 1962 as "Negro History Week." The second week in February was designated to celebrate this week to coincide with the birthday of Frederick Douglass. "Negro History Week" was extended to Black History Month in 1976. Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month in America, is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

Black History Month started out as a way of educating the public on the cultures of the diaspora, spreading awareness, and gaining acceptance. Black History Month should now serve as a time of remembrance. Remembrance of those who came before us and the opportunities we are afforded because of the struggles they have overcome. Black History Month should not only be celebrated



during the twenty eight days of February, but should serve as a time of reflection and inspiration.

As students we should be inspired to educate and better ourselves. We should strive to be role models in our communities and leaders on our campus. There are many opportunities to get involved on campus by simply attending Town Hall Meetings, becoming a member of the Student Government Association, or joining or starting your own club. As students of the most diverse college in the State University of New York system we should feel obligated to take an active role on campus and in the community.

JACK'S BACK

By Jessica Blair

He's back! Fans of the critically acclaimed action-packed series, "24," starring Kiefer Sutherland as counter-terrorist agent, Jack Bauer, can rejoice in the fact that the star has signed on for a 12-episode run which will air in May. The new episodes continue the "24" story which ran for eight seasons from 2001 to 2010 on the FOX network.

Die-hard fans of the show are enthusiastic about its return. The promotional teasers aired during the Super Bowl gave viewers of the game a glimpse of its new London setting. It also gave them a look at the gun-toting Bauer standing alongside ex-CTU (Counter-Terrorist Unit) analyst, and Bauer's most trusted colleague, Chloe O'Brian – who is played by Mary Lynn Rajskub.

In previous seasons, Bauer faced off with terrorists that threatened the life of the President, homeland security, and even his own family on more than one occasion. It was during these tragic storylines involving family where Bauer lost those closest to him. The new 12-part season picks up four years later. Those tuning in will see Bauer on the run from the CIA in Britain's capital city of London.

The new season will loosely adhere to its original real time concept where episodes take place in an hour. However, there will be some moments in time where viewers will see a significant jump in hours between certain episodes. Kevin Reilly, the chairman of FOX broadcasting, told *The New York Times*, the 12-hour format was the best possible solution due to the fact that the backbone of prior seasons had 12 hours-worth of action.

Sutherland, who recently told NBC's "Today" that he is "nervous" about the upcoming episodes, is in the process of filming and has stated, "The character is something I've loved playing and to be able to shoot in England is a real bonus." The special two-hour premiere of "24: Live Another Day" debuts on Monday, May 5th on FOX.

For quite some time, there was, and still seems to be a lot of talk about "24" hitting the big screen. Whether that happens or not, the 12 new episodes will feed anybody wanting some new content. A "24" movie would technically be the second in the series' history. "24: Redemption" was a 2008 made-for-television film that took place between the sixth and seventh season.

Look But Don't Touch

By Cassandra Oliver

"You can look, but don't touch," a mother tells her son in a department store as she yanks his hand away from an expensive porcelain set. Little does she know that the ever-so-popular idiom will resonate with him for years. When he finally becomes a young man and starts dating, those six words uttered by his mother during childhood will resurface. "You can look, but don't touch," he repeatedly says to himself. It has kept him out of trouble all these years, but not this time.

He and his girlfriend walk down the street hand in hand and as they approach the corner, the couple spots a beautiful model at the end of the block. "You can look, but don't touch," he mumbles to himself. As they pass her by, his eyes scan her body all the way down to her Christian Louboutin's.

He's usually a pro at using his peripheral vision but in that moment he was glued to this model and compelled to turn his head completely around. Unaware of his entranced state, he fails to notice that his girlfriend hasn't been walking with him for several feet. She is furious.

Nowadays, it seems as though there are no guidelines for proper etiquette when dating. In a situation such as the one I described above, the boyfriend had three options. His first would be to see the girl and direct his attention toward his girlfriend. The second option would be a quick glance using his peripherals, and the third is blatantly turning around

and "breaking his neck." In a fantasy world, the first option would be ideal, but realistically the second option would occur. In my opinion, the third option is disrespectful to the relationship.

It's sad to say but women are constantly in competition with one another. A woman could walk down the street and if she can capture a man's attention while he's with his girlfriend, it's an instantaneous ego-booster - as superficial as it may sound. That woman for a brief moment may think two things. Either he does not respect his girlfriend or that he can be stolen at any moment. She may not even want to pursue the encounter any further because just knowing she can hold his attention hostage is sufficient.

It all boils down to respect. Whether he knows it or not, the relationship has been compromised from a simple head turn. Although his intentions may not have been to speak to this girl or even get to know her intimately, the action can be interpreted that way. Most women wish they had the enough self-confidence to not be affected by an extended glance, but that's just not how things are. No loving girlfriend wants to see her man gawking at the next female.

It's impossible to monitor your significant other's every move, so if you are compelled to look at least don't do it in the presence of the person you love. You can avoid unnecessary altercations this way and keep the peace. Just have the decency to respect the person you're with when you're right next to them. "You can look when I'm not around, but don't ever touch," is more of my style.

Oscar Predictions

By Kai Stoll

Best Picture

We have seen a trend in the last few years in the Best Picture category. The two frontrunners have given us a visually hyped up, box office spectacle (*Avatar*, *Life of Pi*, *Hugo*, *Inception*) squaring off against a commercially smaller historical account, usually blending great storytelling with tremendous acting (*Argo*, *The Hurt Locker*, *The Artist*, *The King's Speech*). This year has followed suit, setting up a showdown between the theatrical space thriller *Gravity*, and the nineteenth century period epic, *12 Years a Slave*. When you throw a masterpiece like *American Hustle* into the mix, things get even more uncertain. The nominees are: *American Hustle*, *Captain Phillips*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Gravity*, *Her*, *Nebraska*, *Philomena*, *12 Years a Slave*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*

In my opinion:

Who will win: *12 Years a Slave*

We have seen the box office spectacle surprise in the past, but I think this year follows the recent trend, and *12 Years a Slave* will take it, giving us a fifth straight triumph of history in one form or another.

Who could win: *American Hustle* or *Gravity*

The unparalleled hype and the astounding visuals of *Gravity*, along with a nice screenplay and a Sandra Bullock performance give it frontrunner status. *Hustle* presents us with one of the finest acting ensembles in recent memory, along with the genius of director David O. Russell who just seems to create a bigger and better masterpiece each year using a mix-and-match of Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence.

Who should win:

The Wolf of Wall Street
In my opinion on the Best Picture of the Year was *The Wolf of Wall Street*. The most controversial film of year was also, in my opinion, Martin Scorsese's finest work since *Goodfellas*. A biopic of stock market swindler Jordan Belfort, reviewing this movie would take up an entire section. What I will say is that this movie is so much more than the sex, drugs and high-life that allegedly caused SAG members to walk out of the first screening of this film. There is a deep message hidden in there, and the fact that this movie was so reviled for its explicit content simply proves Scorsese's point. The claim that this film glorifies Wall Street and capital greed is inaccurate. And if viewers were able to look past the tables of cocaine and montages of female anatomy, they would realize that this is by far the best picture of the year.

Best Actor

This is the first year in recent memory that every nominee for Best Actor had a performance worthy of an Oscar. Every year we see at least two nominees simply there for respect or hype, even though they realistically have no chance of winning the award. Even the actors who did not make the final five (Tom Hanks, Joaquin Phoenix, Forest Whitaker,

er), had performances for the ages, and could have won this award. The nominees:

Christian Bale for "*American Hustle*", **Bruce Dern** for "*Nebraska*", **Leonardo DiCaprio** for "*The Wolf of Wall Street*", **Chiwetel Ejiofor** for "*12 Years a Slave*", **Matthew McConaughey** for "*Dallas Buyers Club*"

In my opinion:

Who will win: Matthew McConaughey
I know...Mathew McConaughey? An Oscar? McConaughey has won the SAG and the Golden Globe Award. The only actor to ever win both awards and NOT the Oscar was Russell Crowe in 2001. I think McConaughey will revolutionize his career from that actor people made fun of, to an Oscar winner.

Who could win: Chiwetel Ejiofor or Bruce Dern

The actor from the year's historical piece always has a shot, and this is deserved from Ejiofor. His painful portrayal of enslaved free-man Solomon Northrup was incredible. Bruce Dern fills this year's role as the Indy-movie performance that captures real life. The 77-year old's performance as a bitter, washed-up alcoholic is simple, yet so powerful, capturing such a raw representation of old age that it hurts. Dern is an incredible actor whose resume is due for an award.

Who should win:

Leonardo DiCaprio
Both these men had performances that I feel stood out from the rest. You heard my bit on Dern, and Leo is in the same boat. His resume is due, especially with his history of snubs and overlook. The incongruous dynamic of *The Wolf of Wall Street* will not help his cause; in fact will probably detract from it. However, this mind-blowing, three-hour performance as a corporate con-man could be his best work. No, he is not playing an American hero; quite the opposite in fact. But his character's representation of corporate, capitalist America is just as significant in today's world. This role allowed Leo to free himself up from some of his more rigid roles, and he took full advantage.

My other picks:

Best Director: Alfonso Cuarón – *Gravity*
The visual transcendence of this film seems to have reflected the genius of the director in the eyes of the academy.

Best Actress: Cate Blanchett – *Blue Jasmine*

Another performance capturing reality and the struggle of despair, Blanchett's performance has been touted as one of the best in recent memory. She has swept the precursor awards and will walk away with the golden statue.

Best Supporting Actor: Jared Leto – *Dallas Buyers Club*

Probably the surest bet among the acting categories, Leto's performance as a transgender AIDS patient stood out far and above the other nominees.

Best Supporting Actress: Jennifer Lawrence – *American Hustle*

While actress Lupita Nyong'o has garnered some love for her performance in *12 Years a Slave*, the academy is just way too in love with Jennifer Lawrence to let her, and *American Hustle*, walk away empty handed.

STYLE Q. AND A.

By Meleika Amos



Jatwaun Parrish, 25, Harlem



Q: Is there anyone or anything that specifically inspires your style?

A: I don't think there's anyone I think it's just everyday things, it's just like an emotion I go through and it will exemplify through the clothes.

Q: What is your definition of style?

A: Style is you. I don't believe that anyone can look stupid as long as they have confidence in what they're wearing. Style is a definition of a person ... Style defines fashion; there would be no fashion without style.

Q: What kind of piece would you say looks great for a valentines date or to receive as a gift?

A: I believe something red, because it speaks for the holiday. And I would more so say a blazer. I would want to take the person out that bought me the gift. So a blazer would be for a nice outing, so we could go out to eat in a nice intimate setting.

*Jatwuan is also a Stylist, for bookings you may contact him at jatwaun@gmail.com

Q: What is your favorite piece or accessory in your closet?

A: My favorite accessories in my closet are my jackets- blazers, varsities, and my winter jacket.

Q: Do you have any advice for unconfident people?

A: Be yourself, and if you're comfy in your own skin nobody can tell you anything. I'm not even 100 pounds but nobody can tell me nothing!



Samantha Williams, 19, Bronx



Q: Can you tell me what your favorite piece in your closet is and why?

A: My favorite pieces are my vests, I feel naked wearing just a regular shirt I feel I always have to add either a sweater vest, a jacket vest- some kind of vest has to be added to my outfit!

Q: Clothing wise- What would you think would make a nice Valentine's gift?

A: Definitely I would say red accessories are beautiful. I would also say all white, that's beautiful and you know spring is coming up so you want to start getting the bright colors. Black still looks nice but white would look nice on Valentine's Day.

Q: So you're thinking all white, like a white dress?

A: All white lingerie



Jade Williams, 20, Brooklyn

Top Trend Recap

By Virginia Coles

What better way to approach the Spring/Summer trends for 2014 than by doing a recap of some of the top trends we loved from 2013? As the Fall/Winter trends come to an end here is a look at the top two trends for both males and females.

TOP 2 FEMALE TRENDS



(Top right Stuart Weitzman, Jeffery Campbell,)

Over the knee boots were a female must have. They provide extreme versatility since they can be worn with practically anything. Aside from the creative aspect of them they also make a great fashion forward statement.



(Top right Topshop , Jcrew & Zara)

Leather was a big deal this season. From Jackets to tops and pants there were plenty of options when it came to incorporating some leather items into your daily wardrobe. Let's just say it was definitely an "IT" item.

TOP 2 MALE TRENDS



(All from Zara)

This past season boots were a mega hit! On all runways they were showcased in different ways but they made huge statements while being worn with suits. But for the typical college student wearing a suit to run back and forth to class is close to impossible. So a quick way to style up a pair of boots while on the go is wear them with a pair of slim cut jeans which allows you to tuck the bottom of your jeans into the opening of the boot and then you can have fun with whatever shirt you decide to go with based on the look your going for.



(Top right Karmaloop.com, UrbanOutfitters)

When it came to urban fashion sweaters were a huge deal. Not the typical V-neck or Crew neck sweaters but bold sweaters that had captivating graphics on them. From single word statements, to long quotes and funky prints guys were seen wearing statement sweaters everywhere.

Well the season is not over just yet my fellow fashion lovers. You guys still have a couple of weeks to partake in some of these trends. So enjoy the rest of your winter while you anticipate spring/summer styles.

Dear Dr. Deb,

There is a boy that I think is cute who seems to always stare at me when I'm around but he doesn't say anything or make a move. Is he looking at me because he is interested in me or is he too scared to talk to me? I don't know what to do.

Take care,
Perpetually Perplexed

Dear Perpetually Perplexed,

It seems that this boy is interested in you but, for whatever reason, is not speaking or cannot speak to you. I suggest that you be the one to initiate the conversation. You could start the conversation by discussing something that you think may be of interest to him. Perhaps this will help him to be more comfortable with you and open up to you. It also may help you determine whether he is truly captivated by you and wants to get to know you better or whether he just prefers to stare at you from afar.

Dear Dr. Deb,

I have a boyfriend who I have been dating for two years. I recently found myself being attracted to women. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Surprised and Confused

Dear Surprised and Confused,

Before I provide my recommendation, I want to point out an important school of thought on human sexuality. According to the Kinsey Scale (1948), individuals do not necessarily fit into discrete and exclusive heterosexual or homosexual categories. A person's sexuality may change over time (The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, 1996-2014). Your sudden attraction to women may suggest that your sexuality is fluctuating, which is a common and normal experience.

For the sake of your boyfriend, it is important to consider whether this newfound attraction to women is fleeting or significant. If your attraction to women is fleeting, then it should not be a threat to your relationship but being honest with your boyfriend about this attraction is important. If your boyfriend is threatening by this disclosure, then he clearly is not secure enough to handle an insignificant attraction. Frankly, being attracted to someone else, male or female, while being in a committed relationship is common and normal. However, what matters is what you do with that attraction while being in a committed relationship. Therefore, if your attraction is significant, then you need to decide whether this is something you want to pursue. If so, then it is time to call it quits with your boyfriend.

Dear Dr. Deb,

I have been dating my boyfriend for over four years but his mom has told me that he doesn't like us being together. Should I tell my boyfriend what his mom said?

Best,
Secretly Shamed

Dear Secretly Shamed,

It is imperative that you discuss this with your boyfriend, especially to maintain an open and honest relationship. However, when you tell him what his mom said, it is equally important not to denigrate or insult his mother in the process. You should not turn this into a competition about who is more important to him, you or his mother. This will be a losing battle and will undermine your relationship.

You may find, when you tell your boyfriend that his mother doesn't support your relationship with her son, that this is not a surprise to him. You may discover that his mother thinks you two are spending too much time together or rather that her son is not spending enough time with her. His mother may be having a difficult time letting her "baby" go. If this is the case, then you want to make sure that you are not presenting yourself as a threat to her. You should try to make an extra effort to include her in your conversations with him. Be sure to remain polite and considerate though don't be too obvious about this.

On the other hand, you may find that his mother is concerned her son is neglecting other aspects of his life for you. It is important for there to be a balance in each of your lives, between responsibilities such as school, work, friends and family and to each other. This will help strengthen the relationship and put his mom at ease. However, what if you find that his mother really does not like you? Perhaps there are certain qualities about you that she cannot stand. There may or may not be some valid reasons for her disdain. For example, if his mother thinks that you are a bad influence on her son because you are not studying and not working toward a sustainable future, then her ill feelings toward you may be warranted. Though, after deep, honest reflection, if you deduce that her disdain is not reasonable, then I suggest you just be yourself while maintaining a polite and respectful stance toward her. She may warm up to you over time, recognizing that her son's happiness is most important.



Dr. Deb is an educational psychologist who received her doctorate from UCLA. She can be heard live on Awareness Avenue every Thursday from 1 to 3 pm on OWR. She also can be seen on Awareness Avenue every Wednesday at 9 pm on Cablevision Channel 20. If you have any questions or issues for Dr. Deb, please send them to awarenessavenue@gmail.com or submit them to The Catalyst office.

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OLD WESTBURY PUZZLES

Black History Month Word Search

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O C I V I L R I G H T S T K I
I G C I E K O N A A C P N O I
T I C T S G F T G G L I S A R
I A G L A A E E O Y N L R S T
L I T R W H R G C T S W A N N
O N F I S G L R N I C N E T O
B I F H E A A A G L T I P P P
A S T S I V I T C A O S I T O
T W E I O G C I J U N C U N W
I D N O S D O O W Q E N N J E
K W G C O L S N O E T W L I L
N N E G N U F U E O N S L M L

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Abolition | Activists | African American |
| Civil Rights | Desegregation | Equality |
| Integration | Justice | King |
| Lincoln | NAACP | Parks |
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Advertisement

Greetings Old Westbury,

The **Dynamic Speakers Theater** is less than a few days away! This is an event that you do not want to miss! Students from all across Long Island will compete in this oratorical contest to honor Black History Month. You will hear the best in poetry, spoken word, monologues and speeches!

The **Dynamic Speakers Theater** will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 5:00 PM at SUNY Old Westbury. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Join us in supporting our youth. The students are excited, so let's show our enthusiasm and support by showing out in volumes. Our venue this year seats 350, and we want to fill all of those seats...AMEN!

If you're still not convinced, please see the attached newsletter to see what participants, both past and present have to say about their experience in the **Dynamic Speakers Theater**.

If you have any questions regarding the **Dynamic Speakers Theater**, please contact us at pisigmast@yahoo.com.

Best Regards,

Zia Harry
President

Pi Sigma Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Sudoku Puzzles

-MEDIUM-

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-HARD-

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-MEDIUM-

REVIEW

“Body Conscious”: Art Exhibition at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery Confidence Matters, Not Size.

By Destini Hornbuckle

The Amelie A. Wallace Gallery has decided to take on an extreme topic: body image. Recently, the opening reception for “Body Conscious”, an exhibit exploring the issues attached to the female body, was held and faces full of awe were scattered around the gallery. “Oh’s” and “ah’s” could be heard as students and professors studied the pieces, shocked by the graphic images displaying the effects of eating disorders.

Artists: Beth B. of New York, Laia Abril of Barcelona and Maureen Connor of New York came together using their diverse approaches to art and created this dynamic exhibit. Art should not only inform but spark some sort of change in one’s thinking and “Body Conscious” did just that. It shows the negative effects of trying to change your body as well as women who are comfortable in bodies that society has deemed disgusting. When asked what she thought about the exhibit senior Tracy Simmons said, “It gives us the opportunity to understand that we are all not one size...and stop comparing ourselves to super-models who are not built like us we weren’t meant to be that way we weren’t born with their bone structure and we have to stop feeling badly about that.”

A performance by Katya Grokhovsky, one of the artists who contributed to the exhibit, pranced around the room revealing different shirts saying things like “you’re so thin!” “are you eating enough?” and “you’ve put on weight!” as she ate an apple. It was a very simple, yet powerful performance.

It showed how many different ways, whether big or small, someone can stereotype you and talk about you,” says Taja Young, a senior at Old Westbury.

While it is heartbreaking to see effects of society’s obsession with weight it is necessary that this topic is explored, especially on a college campus. It’s not okay to be too big, but too small is horrible as well. And even the middle ground has levels of right and wrong sizes, the fact is we all just are not built the same. Everyone’s idea of beautiful and a comfortable size is different. Therefore, when it comes to weight there will never be an overall “perfect size.” As long as you’re healthy and confident your size should not matter. Beauty is what you make it.

It is recommended that everyone stop by and visit the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery in the SUNY College at Old Westbury Campus Center before this exhibit ends, April 10, 2014.



Ivonne Thein, *Thirty-Two Kilos*, 21 3/5" x 31 1/2", C-type print, 2008.



Image from “Body Conscious” Exhibition

REVIEW

The Wolf of Wall Street

By Joe Randazzo

The Wolf of Wall Street is not for everybody. The men in it are jerks, the women are pigs, and the only characters who made it out of the movie financially unscathed are prostitutes. Anyone with a shred of decency who really enjoys this movie will notice cracks in their morality armor after being charmed by Leonardo DiCaprio's rendition of Jordan Belfort – a stock broker convicted of securities fraud after a Federal investigation found he manipulated the market.

Thankfully for me, I've long since sold off any sort of will to improve where I stand on people's respectability scales. This movie was right up my alley. If you are the same type of person who can look passed gambling on midget tossing, extreme use of Quaaludes, kinky call girls, and the rich stealing from each other, you'll fall in love with *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Scorsese movies tend to be a theatrical Super Bowl sized event and *The Wolf of Wall Street* was just that. The colors were bright, the cars were fast, the drug habits were out of control, and the greed hammered through the movie like an unstoppable juggernaut.

At the center of it all was Jordan Belfort. As Belfort, DiCaprio showed us a man with a Ric Flair sized ego whose addic-

tions spanned from money, prostitutes, Quaaludes – or “loudes” as he called it-cocaine, and the roar of elation he brought out of hungry stock brokers holding on to his every word during his self-serving speeches in the office. DiCaprio was cult-like in this role. He was more than just the boss of the company Stratton Oakmont. He was the leader of what he called his “merry band” of “Strattonites.” (A term Belfort admits to borrowing from Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters in his book.)

The Wolf of Wall Street is a rare type of Hollywood movie in that it's unapologetic. Belfort doesn't win back the girl. There is no “rock bottom” moment from his coke and hooker addictions, and the federal agents who take him down in the end aren't heroes. In fact, after Belfort's arrest, the lead investigator, Detective Patrick Denham, sees his case in a small blurb featured in a tiny New York Times article on the train. In that moment Denham realizes he's as broke and miserable as Belfort said he was in their first encounter. The movie then fast forwards a few years into the future and shows Belfort making a living as a public speaker. Granted, the money wasn't flowing like it did when he used Steve Madden shoes to make 20 million in a day, he's at least free

and on his feet. Life isn't so bad for him and if the movie continued a little longer, it would show the book about his life, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, becoming a New York Times best seller.

Critics have blasted the movie for not showing a harder fall for Jordan Belfort but that's one of the reasons I liked it. First off, if it didn't show Belfort back on his feet, it would be a lie. Following his short prison sentence he made (and still is) a decent living as a public speaker. Secondly, do we really need spoon fed happy endings for every movie? How fragile are these critics that they need closure in everything in their life. Not only does that not hold true to the story, but it doesn't hold true to the way things are run in this country. It's time these adult critics emotionally grow up and realize this. Their outrage shows how far we've fallen in terms of accepting the truth. We'd rather have some fake sugary ending than the truth. More often than not you don't get the girl.

Life isn't a romantic comedy or the WWF critics grew up on. Hell, if movies and wrestling were more like real life, Noah would have a restraining order and it's Andre who slams Hogan. *The Wolf of Wall Street* is a good representation of this cruel truth. Sure, the good guys win sometimes, but when it does happen, its small marginal victories nobody notices like Detective Denham's win over Belfort.

American Hustle came out in the-

aters at around the same time *The Wolf of Wall Street* did. Just like Wolf, it was the story of swindlers and scumbags. While it was awesome to see Louie CK make a surprise appearance as a wimpy Federal agent, I thought the ending was weak. In the end everybody found love and opened up art galleries. Here was Hollywood's chance to make two movies with different endings and it just never happened. People who are that scummy don't let themselves have healthy relationships where they hold hands and sell paintings. All the characters essentially were trying to make up for their past sins. When has that ever happened in the history of our criminals? Just look at this country's recidivism rates.

What I love about *The Wolf of Wall Street* is it's the retelling of Jordan Belfort's life and he chooses the glorification of midget tossing rather than apologize. I'm glad he did too because everyone in the public eye today issues groveling apologies they don't mean. To make matters worse, they're apologizing for things which might offend people. Let's say something was offensive though. Who cares? If it offends you, then the product isn't any of your business. It's for the people who like it. What Jordan Belfort does instead is let people know he had fun in the most financially illegal way possible.

REVIEW

Carter Covert Ops: Beyoncé's Surprise Release

By Laura DeMarzo

I really didn't want to hop on the Beyoncé bandwagon—primarily because it's late in the game and all of the good seats were taken. But, I have to relent and admit that what she accomplished on December 13th with her fifth studio and first visual album was undeniably spectacular.

While as a music lover I always followed and enjoyed her work, never was I as genuinely impressed as I was upon experiencing “Beyoncé.” Most impressive to me was the fact that Beyoncé Knowles-Carter released this album with zero marketing. For those of you unfamiliar with the business side of music, marketing and promotion for an artist's upcoming project attributes to a significant monetary portion of what an artist can owe the label—not to mention the sometimes grueling press tour that an artist is obligated to take part in. Essentially, Beyoncé cut out the middle man and was able to rely solely on the loyalty of her fan base for the success or failure of the album—and fail

her they did not.

As to date the album has sold upwards of 1.7 million copies. Beyond the innovation of releasing a surprise full length album with zero marketing at midnight, the true talent of Mrs. Carter's team is in knowing when the climate is right for such a project. To ensure the fourteen track self-titled piece was a true surprise to the media and fans alike, everyone from interns and A&R executives at the label were to sign non-disclosure contracts.

So what was all the secrecy for? Beyoncé takes us on a sixty-seven minute journey through many of the complex highs and lows that occur in a woman's life. As listeners, we are taken on an R&B/Pop detour, where every song isn't about pains of casual dating, but about topics that take longer to either achieve or heal from. We're with her as she sings with levity about the bliss of self-love, on “Flawless,” “I woke up like this/We flawless, ladies tell 'em/I woke up like this.” While she then flips toward the binary of that, struggling with the constant pres-



ures to be perfect on “Pretty Hurts,” “Blonder hair, flat chest/TV says, “Bigger is better.”/South beach, sugar free/Vogue says: ‘Thinner is better’.” As cathartic as those tracks feel, probably the most heart-wrenching of all is “Heaven,” a song about her miscarriage with husband. “Carter, I fought for you/The hardest, it made me the strongest/So tell me your secrets/I just can't stand to see you leaving/But heaven couldn't wait for you.”

Fret not, Beyoncé loyalists, for she returns to her roots and makes songs guaranteed to make you dance or at least sing alone in your car, with the infectious “Blow” and the ubiquitous “Drunk in Love.” All in all, this project has something for everyone. Synth based tracks for

the dancers, a moving clip of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's, TED Talk for the feminists, experimental beats for budding DJ's. It's all brought full circle with appearances by artists and producers you expect to hear on a Knowles project (Jay-Z, Justin Timberlake, Timbaland and Pharrell Williams to name a few).

Other artists have already credited Beyoncé for breaking the marketing binds put forth by labels, such as New York Hip-Hop heroes the Lox, as they released their latest mixtape “Trinity” in similar fashion. With the release of “Beyoncé,” Mrs. Knowles-Carter has made strides in innovating the way we receive music, the way she has been innovating the music we listen to for years.

NHL Takes Over Yankee Stadium

By Scott Clinco

In the last week of January, the National Hockey League bought their NHL Stadium Series to NYC, specifically at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. On Sunday January 26th, the Rangers faced off with the rival Devils. Then, just three days later, the Rangers hit the ice again to face off with the Islanders.

You would think with the Rangers being the team that calls New York City home would've been scheduled as the home team for these games. However, that would be incorrect as the Islanders and Devils were scheduled as the home teams for their respective games. The exact reason for that is unclear; however, some solid investigative work by Jeff Z. Klein, a reporter for the *New York Times* provided some ideas. According to Klein, if the Rangers were scheduled as the home team for either game a 17.3 million dollar tax break for MSG [Rangers Owners] from New York City would've been put in jeopardy as a stipulation of getting the break is that the Rangers and the Knicks play all home games at Madison Square Garden. Additionally, the article states that the NHL was paying back the home teams of the outdoor games for the lost revenue of a home game. By making the Islanders and

Devils the home teams the NHL saved themselves as much as a couple million dollars per game, according to Klein's article.

I was fortunate to attend the Islanders Rangers game as part of the Stadium Series on January 29th. After watching many of the NHL Winter Classic outdoor games on TV, being able to go to an outdoor game was a really cool experience. Being that the game was scheduled as an Islander home game it would be fair to assume that they would have things around the Stadium to cater to the Islanders fans. While they did have the Islanders Ice Girls present, as well as Nassau Coliseum organist Paul Cartier both of who were fantastic as usual that was pretty much it.

Two things that really stuck out to me in the wrong way regarding the game were the fact that the merchandise stands had predominantly Rangers merchandise and very little Islanders. Given the fact that it was an Islanders home game, it would seem like a given that the merchandise stands would have more merchandise of the home team to appeal to the home fans. Also, Cee Lo Green who performed before the game may as well have had a Ranger hat and jersey on during his performance the way he spoke about the Islanders. Being that it was an



Islanders home game, it would have made sense that the musical act performing before said game would support the "home team."

Cee Lo talking up the Rangers though didn't do him any favors with the fans as he was routinely booed nearly the entire time he was on stage during each of his performances. I personally don't mind him as a singer; however, I don't peg him as someone that would appeal to most hockey fans which made him an odd choice to perform in my mind. The criticism he faced appeared to get to him

more than it should have and at one point Green while standing on stage gave the fans in attendance the double middle finger.

The Rangers went on to win the game by a score of 2-1 which gave them a Stadium Series sweep after defeating the Devils a couple days earlier. As I said above, being able to go to the game was a really cool experience and even though the Islanders came up on the short end of things, if given the chance to go to another outdoor game I probably would.

Remembering Baseball Legend & Mets Broadcaster Ralph Kiner

By Scott Clinco

On February 6th, news came out that Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and long time Mets broadcaster Ralph Kiner had passed away at the age of 91.

Kiner played 10 seasons in the big leagues from 1946 through 1955. He was forced to retire at age 32 because of a back injury. Six years after retiring, Kiner got his start in the booth with the Chicago White Sox for the 1961 baseball season. Following that season, he got a call to join the newly formed New York Mets as a broadcaster and after getting out of his contract with the White Sox he joined the Mets and remained with the team for the rest of his life. For his first 17 seasons with the team, along with Lindsey Nelson and Bob Murphy the trio formed one of the most recognizable broadcast booths

out there. Kiner last called a game on July 25th of last year at 90 years of age. Even at his age Kiner was sharp as anything in the booth keeping up with the names of current players and the stats. Also, offering invaluable insight about the game to the listeners as he had done for decades.

Kiner was also famous for hosting his post game show after home games called Kiner's Korner. On this show Kiner would have a guest from one of the two teams that had just played in the game and for 15-20 minutes they would discuss the game among other things. When asked about Kiner's Korner former Mets pitcher and current broadcaster Bob Ojeda told the Daily News, "Kiner's Korner was a big deal, It mattered. Probably, for the first time in my major league career, I was being asked questions by a guy who got it..." The show became so popular



Ralph Kiner

that even visiting players when coming to town would talk about their desire of wanting to be on the show with him.

Following the news coming out, current and former players and broadcasters issued comment on various aspects of media. Former Mets catcher and Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza said, "VERY sad to hear of the passing of Ralph Kiner. A TRUE legend, A TRUE gentleman, My thoughts and prayers are with his family." Meanwhile, Mets broadcaster and colleague of Kiner Kevin Burkhardt had this to say, "Horrible

news. Ralph Kiner passed away at age 91. Sad, sad day. So lucky I had a chance to work with him. Rest in Peace Ralph." Former MLB pitcher Bert Blyleven said, "Sad to hear the passing of HOF Ralph Kiner. Our condolences to his family and friends." Former Mets pitcher and current broadcaster Ron Darling told the Daily News, "He was one of those people who we were always better off knowing, I'm only 53, but I'm every bit of 53, and I have never met anyone like Ralph."

PANTHERS MEN'S BASKETBALL SAILS PAST MARITIME, 72-58

Ray Parker's career-high 25 points leads Old Westbury to ninth straight win over Maritime

By Harris Rappel



Old Westbury men's basketball team outscored the Maritime Privateers by 11 points in the second half en route to securing a 72-58 Skyline Conference road victory Saturday afternoon from Riesenberg Gym. Old Westbury (13-9) captured its ninth straight victory over the Privateers to improve to 9-6 in conference play while sending Maritime (3-20) to 1-15.

Ray Parker set the tone early on for the Panthers, dropping in a layup just 1:12 into play to break the scoring. Old Westbury built up a 10 point lead off the power of an 8-0 run from 13:09 to 10:14. Maritime answered back with a 17-6 run to claim its lone lead of the game, 25-24, with 4:10 remaining. Old Westbury outscored the Privateers 7-3 over the final 2:38 to hold a 31-28 advantage at the half.

Maritime's Brendon Halligan connected on a triple to knot the game at 31-all to start the second half scoring. Old Westbury responded with a 17-6 run of its own to go up 48-37 and later used a 15-7 spurt from to hold its largest lead of the game at 68-52 with 37 seconds remaining to

secure the victory.

Parker led all scorers with a career-high 25 points (10-13 FG) while Omari Trebuse added 16 points. Floyd Leroy put up 12 points, eight rebounds, three steals and two blocks. Andrew Andries chipped in with 10 rebounds and two blocked shots.

Tim McNamara scored 13 points off the bench to lead Maritime while T'Vaughn Gibson and Sean Corley contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively. Corley added seven assists and four steals while Gibson ripped down 11 rebounds.

Old Westbury connected on 49.1 percent shooting from the field (26-53), 36.4 percent from three point range (4-11) and 76.2 percent from free throw line (16-21) as Maritime hit 30.3 percent from the floor (20-66), 29 percent from beyond the arc (9-31) and 75 percent from the charity stripe (9-12). Maritime won the boards battle, 39-38, scoring 11 second chance points off 14 offensive rebounds. Old Westbury finished with 12 steals to hit double digit steal total for the 11th time this season.

PANTHERS REACH DOUBLE DIGITS FOR WOMEN'S HOOPS IN CONFERENCE MATCH WITH PURCHASE

DeAndra Scott netted 19 points in the 84-83 loss

By Andrew Capitelli



Old Westbury women's basketball team dropped an 84-83 heartbreaker at home on Saturday afternoon to conference rivals Purchase Panthers. With just three games remaining, Old Westbury (6-16) sits at 4-7 in conference play while Purchase (13-9) improves to 8-4.

Purchase jumped out to an early 9-2 lead, but a succeeding 12-4 run by Old Westbury put the home Panthers in front 14-13 at 12:30. A 9-2 Purchase run eventually put the visitors up 29-22, but Old Westbury fired back, claiming 10 of the next 14 points to enter the half down 33-32.

Old Westbury would take the lead early in the second, but Purchase pushed out in front at 17:02 by the score of 39-37. The visiting Panthers would hold sole leadership of the lead until there was just 33 seconds remaining, although Old Westbury worked hard to keep the deficit manageable. At 55 seconds, Old Westbury down six, began a 6-0 run that erased Purchase's lead, and at 13 seconds Old Westbury would take the lead, courtesy of a Clarissa Gallagher three pointer. Down 83-82, Pur-

chase drew a foul and sank both free throws to take the final lead of the game. At the buzzer it was 84-83 to the visitors.

In a game that was tied six times and saw nine lead changes, much was tightly contested. Old Westbury did claim victory in most statistical categories, though, including points in the paint (34-28), points off turnovers (26-21) and bench points 22-6.

On the flip side, Old Westbury was out-rebounded (40-36) and turned the ball over more than its opponents (26-24), although the Panthers did grab a season-high 18 steals.

DeAndra Scott was Old Westbury's top scorer with 19 points, while Clarissa Gallagher pitched in with 16 points and a career-high five steals. Chloe Mellon and Jasmine Robinson each went for 13 points as Raven Pentz dished out a career-high in assists (11) while tying a personal best with four steals. Robinson also added five assists and three steals.

Jazmin Garcia potted 25 for Purchase while Elizabeth Osowiecki contributed 24 (12-13 FT)