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**SEX
& GENDER
ISSUE**

SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THE PAUW WOW

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**LEGS CROSSED
AND HANDS TIED:**

The difficulties of receiving both birth control...

and a Catholic education

THE PAUW WOW

since 1933

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A THANK YOU AND A CHALLENGE TO SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY

A letter from the Editor

We at the Pauw Wow have apparently found some sensitive issues to talk about. When we covered student debt, we inspired responses that ranged from supportive to caustic. We want to give everyone a voice, which is why we're also pleased to publish letters to the editor.

We have taken some criticism for only publishing negative news or making the school look bad, but the mission of journalism is not to create a positive image for the university. We don't want to put the public relations office

out of a job.

Our job, as journalists, is to inform and educate our audience of the truth. This might be positive events at the school, bringing attention to students who are doing well in academics or sports, scientific and social advances being made at our school, but it also might be more negative experiences students face.

We do try to present both sides of whatever we cover. I hope with this issue, which is likely no less controversial than the issue on student debt, we are showing a fair

representation. If, as you're reading, you feel otherwise, please do write to us. Your voice is just as important as the voice of the Pauw Wow.

It's especially important with this issue, which is meant to cover sexuality in college. At our Catholic university, as within other communities, issues of sexuality have become unspeakable. Exceptions seem to include senators and congressmen who attempt to define what people should and should not do with their bodies.

These issues, as well as those

covered in the last edition of the Pauw Wow, are the ones that are going to make a real impact on the lives of students here. We can't just report the happy, pleasant events that go on in the school; we might sometimes also have to tell you about the harsh realities of the world.

The writers and editors at the Pauw Wow are proud to bring you real, relevant news, as well as to start the discussions that could change our lives. Thank you for reading and even moreso for responding.

Visit the Website:

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Letters to the Editor:

The Pauw Wow encourages discussion, but does not guarantee its publication. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter or feedback.

Send your letters to rdriscoll@mail.saintpeters.edu. Letters 500 words or less are more likely to be accepted and must include names, phone numbers, major and/or group affiliation and year in school of the author or authors. Phone numbers and addresses will not be published.

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By CAITLIN FITZGERALD*

I spent my childhood in pleated skirts and knee socks, attending mass on every Holy Day of Obligation, and studying for catechism class. My mother pointed to the Virgin Mary as the perfect example of a woman for my sisters and I to follow. She adheres to the official view of the Catholic church: that sexuality is to be saved for marriage. So when I experienced a pregnancy scare, it was more like a pregnancy terror.

Though my mother only discussed sex with me once when I was thirteen ("Do you know how you can get pregnant? Don't do that."), I was convinced she would disown me if I was found to be pregnant. I realized that the responsible thing to do once sexually active was to start birth control, but the idea of claiming contraceptives on my parents' insurance was as unthinkable, for me, as conceiving a baby.

A papal encyclical titled "Humanae Vitae (On Human Life)" condemned the use of artificial birth control, including but not limited to sterilizations, the pill, and condoms. They describe the use of birth control as "gravely sinful." A highly disputed statistic reported by the Guttmacher Institute, however, claims that 98% of Catholic women use contraceptives.

The ban on birth control spread from the highest circles of Catholic governance down to Catholic families and institutions, like hospitals and universities. In addition to causing this summer's controversies regarding federal health care reform, the Church's stance on sexuality also limits the provision's of Saint Peter's University's own health staff.

Marie Lesniak*, a junior at Saint Peter's and a practicing Catholic, shares her opinion

by saying, "It's not appropriate for a Catholic university to provide birth control. This has been a big issue for the entire church and those authorities; Catholic schools don't have to go against the church. It's in the namesake."

Though nurses, a doctor, and a clinic are all available on campus, their hands are tied by the Church. They can't distribute condoms, which prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. They can't test students for pregnancy or STDs. They can't, officially, discuss birth control. They provide a list, both online and mailed to students, of what to bring to a campus residence, and nowhere does it mention condoms or the pill. All they can do is refer students to an outside gynecological practice, where school insurance is accepted.

For contrast, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, a state school with no religious affiliation, provides condoms, birth control pills, lubricants, and emergency contraception for purchase. They also provide STI testing and screenings for hormonal birth control.

Xavier University, a Jesuit school in Cincinnati, Ohio, provides resources for pregnant students and STI testing, but not birth control. Seton Hall University in South Orange, Catholic but not Jesuit, also provides STI testing. Saint Peter's health services can only offer information on STD awareness.

A 2006 study in the Journal of Adolescent Health on the efficacy of abstinence-only sex education showed that almost half of the STIs in the United States are contracted by people under 25, and over 800,000 adolescents become pregnant yearly. According to the American Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 35% of college women have contracted HPV, which could be prevented through the use of condoms. Not talking about sex is not

effective preventing these undesirable consequences.

Though contraceptives and reproductive rights have been largely and loudly discussed in the public sphere, most women still need secrecy and anonymity when acquiring birth control. No statistics were available on the number of students at Saint Peter's who are pregnant or have an STD.

On Planned Parenthood's website, where I made my initial appointment to acquire birth control, they ask whether it's safe to call, and if so, should they identify as "the doctor's office," or even "Cory," to protect their patient's privacy, should someone besides the patient pick up the phone. I was at once grateful for and stunned by the level of secrecy they provided. Signs in the waiting rooms of the clinic advise patients that "Unauthorized photography, video or audio recording is not permitted."

While I was grateful for the lengths they go to protect their patients' privacy because I feared my mother's anger, some of Planned Parenthood's clients face far more dire consequences. They may be forced to hide an abortion or the use of birth control from an abusive partner.

Planned Parenthood works to make reproductive health services, such as breast, cervical, and testicular cancer screenings, STD testing, provision of information on healthy relationships, and the provision of birth control and abortions available to everyone, including those without health insurance. Within the City of New York, most of their services are free to those in the lowest income brackets.

They are able to provide these through federal subsidies and private donations. The former are under fire from conservative political forces in the upcoming presidential election.

Alexandra Rodriguez-Nowarro*, a practicing Catholic student who is, nonetheless, looking into birth control, said, "I don't want someone who doesn't know my body, situation, and circumstances to dictate what I can and can't do for myself. If I wanted that, I'd tell my parents everything."

Rodriguez-Nowarro*, like many women, refer to this as the "War on Women," which began with criticisms of President Obama's health care reform and included opposition from the American Council of Bishops on the required provision of birth control to female employees.

Nina Dinelli*, a sophomore who is also a practicing Catholic, said, "Part of learning how to be prepared for the real world is learning how to be responsible for one's health and well-being as well as being responsible for one's actions. That means, if people are going to choose to be sexually active in college, they are responsible for providing their own birth control, so they can make sure they are being safe. Some people would argue that birth control is too expensive for students so colleges should have it. I disagree."

Mysha Smith*, a student who identifies as agnostic, said, "I don't think having birth control in school - I'm a resident - would be that much of a problem. It's an all-women floor, so I assume people would have similar experiences and be willing to offer support."

The practical upshot of all this ideology had me on the PATH train, heading to the Margaret Sanger Center on Bleecker Street in Manhattan. I had been to the Planned Parenthood clinic in my hometown for my first appointment, my hands sweating on the steering wheel of my mother's borrowed car while I parked it as far from the street as possible to avoid notice. This time, I was much more confident, though I didn't

have to walk through a metal detector at the smaller clinic.

Inside I was greeted by the same pamphlets on sexual health featured in the Saint Peter's nurse's office, as well as by posters promoting safe sex and birth control ("We'll be great parents someday, but until then, we use birth control"), and, most noticeably different, baskets of condoms for taking home.

As Lesniak* told me, "I use condoms because they're more accessible, less expensive, don't need perscription." Though financial counselors at Planned Parenthood are able to waive the costs of birth control and the preliminary pregnancy test, patients still undergo a physical exam and need to be given a prescription before they can receive birth control.

The first thing measured was my income; as a full-time student and only part-time worker, I qualified to have the price waived. Next, they took my weight, blood pressure, and a urine sample. Finally, I was approved for a depo-provera injection, a form of hormonal birth effective for three months.

This option is not for everyone. Dinelli* said, "I don't use birth control in the form of a pill or an injection. I don't like the idea of chemically changing my body's functions that way just so I don't have to deal with a monthly gift or so I can fool around whenever I want. Condoms are the only form of birth control I would ever consider."

However, birth control is not only taken as contraception. According to the Institute of Medicine, hormonally-based birth control can be used to regulate the menstrual cycle, prevent migraines, acne, pelvic and breast diseases. And according to the Center for Disease Control, people aged 13 to 29 made up 39% of HIV infections, a spread which can be prevented by the use of

Continued on Page 4

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condoms.

Additionally, birth control, whether hormonal or the rhythm method approved by the Catholic Church, is necessary for healthy mothers and babies. The Institute of Health also says that birth control is helpful in preventing unplanned pregnancies, of which 42% in 2008 ended in abortion.

I chose depo-provera because it's easy to hide - no pill to take every day, no packaging to worry about my mother coming across. At home, I had the injection in my hip so that my pants would cover it. I'm not alone.

Rodriguez-Nowarro* said, "I have to hide it from parents - I can't talk to my mom about anything. She won't even let me use tampons - that'd make me not a virgin any more."

Lesniak* agrees. "I do have to hide it from parents, but I'm not comfortable with anyone besides [my] doctor and

boyfriend knowing about my sexual activity."

Patients at Planned Parenthood do fill out an extensive questionnaire on not only sexual activity, but also the health and strength of the relationship between sexual partners, whether a patient is in a monogamous relationship, what gender each partner is. Before giving me my injection, the nurse asked me, "Your partner - he treats you all right? No funny business?"

Despite the large number of patients at the clinic and the efficiency of the system, I felt cared for. There is a large sense of solidarity as well as secrecy - not to mention, for me, the thrill of rebellion. I proudly took the shot in my arm, not hiding it from my mother or anyone, and even took a little pink pin home with me that reads: "Planning is power."

*All names have been changed to protect students' privacy.



The Margaret Sanger Center (Planned Parenthood Clinic) on Bleecker Street in Lower Manhattan

PHOTO BY CAITLIN FITZGERALD*

SHAMING PEOPLE INTO SILENCE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES LEFT IN THE DARK DESPITE RISING DEATH TOTALS

BY DYLAN SMITH
Online Editor

During the month of October, bright pink ribbons are proudly featured on people's chests. Pink bows are tied into women's hair, while pink balloons often line the walls of events aimed at raising awareness for those suffering from breast cancer and those who have proudly fought and survived it. Yet, there are not many signs of the color purple, the official color representing Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is also in October.

Even in the year 2012, many feel as though the issue of domestic violence is one that belongs within the home and

not out in public for people to discuss. While breast cancer is a devastating disease, affecting millions, in contrast, according to studies, ten-times more women are victims of domestic abuse than those who will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

The statistic itself originates from The New England Journal Of Medicine and is only one of the many disturbing figures accessible on the topic of domestic violence. According to The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an estimated four million women are battered every year by an intimate partner, with the actual figure expected to be far closer to six million. Even the FBI reports that within the United States, a woman is

beaten on an average of every twelve-to-fifteen seconds. The effects of domestic abuse do not just stop at the men or women suffering from partner violence, with children who witness domestic violence expected to be at an annual average of three million, according to the Child Witness To Violence Project. For those who witness such violence, the lack of awareness on the issue leaves them unsettled.

"It's something people think should be kept behind closed doors at home," said Sofia De Pierola, a senior at Saint Peter's University. "There's too much silence and fear involved with experiencing [domestic violence]."

De Pierola is a 21-year-old



COURTESY OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

woman who currently and proudly showcases a bright purple streak in her hair, but has only recently spoken about what occurred to her and her mother years ago on a much more public platform.

"My father [was] behind our front door, waiting with an aluminum bat," said De Pierola, when recounting her experience of witnessing domestic violence. "He proceeded to scream at my mother, while I was there - only three years old."

Children who witness domestic violence are also more likely to be possible victims of it at a rate that is estimated as 1500-times greater than those who come from homes where no domestic violence takes place, according to the Child Witness to Violence Project. It is also believe that 50 to 60 percent of those who witness domestic violence will eventually become victims of actual abuse themselves.

"He was ready to strike and I actually jumped in front of my mom to try to protect her, and she broke her fingers because she put her hand out when he swung with the bat," explained De Pierola. "He actually tried to kill me. [He] tried to kill her."

What bothers De Pierola the most, it seems, is not what had happened to her and her mother, Fatima, who, since the attack, now speaks to men within prisons about what had been done to her, but the way that issues of domestic violence are still ignored on college campuses, including Saint Peter's. At the time of publication, October will have seen several on-campus events about Halloween, weekly events to discuss the upcoming election, and even a walk aimed at making strides again breast cancer, while any signs of domestic violence awareness are absent from on-campus promotion or that of the Master Calendar on the school's website.

The statistics prove to be on De Pierola's side, as high

school and college-students are also extremely likely to be victims of intimate partner violence. In actuality, physical abuse is considered to be just as common among those in high school and college-age couples as married couples, with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reporting that one-third of young people will experience domestic violence in an intimate or dating relationship. For many college students, being away from home and loved-ones could be a gateway in allowing abuse to continue without interference from outside parties. The FBI's 1991 Uniform Crime Report states that 80% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser after the onset of violence.

With college being an environment where relationships could quickly turn dangerous, offices like Saint Peter's Center for Personal Development act as gatekeepers responsible for making sure the overall physical and mental well-being of students is maintained. The Center's web page on the school's site has emergency resources that include the numbers to 24/7 hotlines like

"He slit her throat open with a box cutter. When the police finally came to my house, the last memory I have of that night is of my mom being pulled away on a stretcher."

that of the Women Rising Domestic Violence Hotline and the Hudson County Rape Crisis Center. The Center also emphasizes that its services are free and confidential, with sessions and records not incorporated into either a student's academic or health records, while neither parents



PHOTO BY DYLAN SMYTH

or college faculty being able to access the Center's records either.

Still, despite the resources on-campus for those who may

who are victims to the life-altering physical, mental, and emotional abuse that can occur in intimate partner violence.

In fact, the only actual sign

society and the school need to improve, De Pierola still counts her blessings for how different her life could have been that one night when she was three-years-old.

"I watched my father - my dad - hit my mother over and over again with a bat," said De Pierola. "He slit her throat open with a box cutter. When the police finally came to my house, the last memory I have of that night is of my mom being pulled away on a stretcher. That night, I almost lost my mom and, everyday, I thank God that she's still here."

The Center for Personal Development offers confidential and private counseling sessions and other networking to put students in touch with other services they may need, according to Gail Conte, who works within the Center.

be suffering from a harmful relationship, the clear lack of on-campus awareness among the students is undeniable and, as some students feel, is uncomfortable. After all, one does not need to have experienced domestic violence to be aware of how damaging it can be to both men and women

around campus that would allow people to know that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a sign that De Pierola made out of frustration that states that "Love [Doesn't Equal] Pain". It currently hangs in Jazzman's Cafe. Despite where she feels

ELECTION 2012: DID THE YOUTH VOTE MATTER?



Students gather to watch the last debate

PHOTO BY GARVEY POTTER

BY GARVEY POTTER
Staff Writer '14

A question on many minds of Saint Peter's University students this year was whether to vote for Democratic candidate and current president, Barack Obama, or for Republican candidate, Mitt Romney. And for many of the dozens of students and faculty who gathered at Jazzman's to watch the third and final presidential debate, it was one of their last chances to hear what the candidates had to say before making up their minds on who to support on November 6.

Some of the most important issues concerning students at Saint Peter's University are the economy, women's rights, the state of the environment and foreign policy and the wars. But some students said they are simply looking for a candidate to help support them with the

student debt that they will be dealing with after graduation.

"I'm looking at who has the student's best interest at heart and me being on the other side of a huge, astronomical loan I feel more comfortable with Obama," said Rachael Fishbein, class of 2014. "[Romney] really doesn't have a plan for education. I feel like he is geared more towards the older people."

While Obama had strong support among the students, Romney had his own camp of followers as well.

"I support Mitt Romney over Obama, mostly because I think that his economic plans would be most beneficial for the United States," Scott Miller said. "We have had four years of Obama's economy and it has only gotten worse."

However, some students, like Kyera Shea, were disinterested in both candidates and looked towards

independent candidates like Ron Paul.

"I haven't decided who I am voting for in the election because I feel that both are weak candidates," Shea said. "By themselves, neither are viable candidates for the presidency."

In the 2008 election between now-president-elect Barack Obama and Republican hopeful John McCain, the youth vote was a pivotal demographic for President Obama's victory.

"66% of those under age 30 voted for Barack Obama making the disparity between young voters and other age groups larger than in any presidential election since exit polling began in 1972," according to the Pew Research Center in a report called Young Voters in the 2008 Election.

"Young voters are more diverse racially and ethnically than older voters

and more secular in their religious orientation. These characteristics, as well as the climate in which they have come of age politically, incline them not only toward Democratic Party affiliation," according to the Pew.

However, this time around, some political experts predicated that the youth vote would not be as pivotal as this year.

"Fifty-eight percent of U.S. registered voters aged 18 to 29 say they will 'definitely vote' this fall, well below the current national average of 78% and far below 18- to 29-year-olds' voting intentions in the fall of 2004 and 2008," according to a poll conducted by Gallup.com.

But students at St. Peter's disagreed. They believed their votes would go on to matter in the election.

"I think we are actually very important," Jacquelyn Silva

said when asked about the importance of the youth vote. "I feel though a lot really don't care about it or they're not as much attention to it. But I feel like there is definitely more youth tuning into it."

With experts saying that the youth vote fell in importance to the female and Latino vote, it is important to remember that President Obama's policies will still have an important impact on the whole country, including the students of Saint Peter's University.

"Whether we realize it or not our President's policies are going to affect us," Daryl Greene said.

"And if anyone's is going to be making policies that affect me, I should have all the knowledge I need to know who I want to vote for and who should be representing me and what we need as a country."

JOB RECRUITERS RETURN TO SAINT PETER'S FOR FALL CAREER FAIR

BY ESSENCE ROGERS
Contributing Writer '15

As Evan Martins walked through the 29th Annual Saint Peter's University Fall Career Fair, he had one goal -- to find full-time employment with a company that deals with computer science, his major. As Martins strolled from table to table, he spoke with many friendly recruiters, but by the end of day, he realized that not many companies at the career fair cater to his interests.

After the economic collapse of 2008, many businesses in the United States continue to struggle, but there is some glimmer of hope. As of September 2012, the national unemployment rate is down from over 8% to 7.8%, according to the US Department of Labor. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in New Jersey is at 9.8%. Even with such a high unemployment rate in New Jersey, the students of Saint Peter's University were optimistic and headed to the career fair to chat with the 48 recruiters and hand out résumés in hope of landing a job or internship.

The gym, where the career fair was being held, was particularly crowded around 11:00 AM, which speaks volumes since in previous years, the career fair was most packed around noon.

"I'm just happy to be here," said a bright-eyed Jesse Daniels, a freshman studying business management. Although many recruiters were looking to hire seniors or juniors, the companies seemed to be open to the idea of hiring a freshman or sophomore as an intern. Jesse Daniels was not the only person happy to be there. The recruiters were enjoying talking to the students.

"I like a lot of people so far. A lot of people seem very interested and engaged. They're really serious about getting their career started. That's exactly what we're looking for," said Michael Panagis, a recruiter for ING Financial Partners Inc.

Many of these recruiters said that starting salaries at their companies varied.

take any bail out money," says Panagis confidently. "We're doing well. ING, they're the second largest financial banking conglomerate in the world."

When asked if the recession affected The Hudson Auto Group, Subaru representative Christina DiFeo said, "Oh geez, that is a hard question. We've had our ups and downs,

"They were very nice. I was very impressed in how they treated me and how helpful they were in finding me a job," said Evan Martins, a junior majoring in computer science. "Even if they didn't have one, they'd refer me to another one."

Nick Pucci, a senior and accounting major, had a very positive and productive experience at the career fair.

Chopra, a sophomore who came to the career fair in search of an internship or part time employment.

Chopra, like many students, came because it was required by one of her professors, but not everyone at this career fair was even a current student of Saint Peter's University. Jonathan Ocasio, who graduated in May of 2012 with a BA in Physics, had returned to SPU for the career fair in hopes of finding a job.

"I'm here just to look around and see what kind of jobs there are. I'm trying to go to graduate school and I need a job to pay for it," said Ocasio.

Outside of the fair stood Malcolm Alexander, a junior and biology major, who opted not to go to the career fair at all.

"I wasn't aware that they had options available to me. They always make it seem like it's a business major thing," said Alexander. "It is pretty much catered to business majors. They don't even have to go to class; they just go to the career fair."

Some students such as Vanessa Acosta, senior and accounting major, claim that there are "the same companies every year," which may have been the reason why Evan Martins was unable to find many computer science companies.

Martins did meet with recruiters who were more than willing to help him find full time employment. However, Martins, like many other students left the career fair disappointed and wanting more. He will have another chance to look for work. The next career fair will be held next Spring.

"I'm majoring in healthcare administration and business administration, but I haven't found anything," said Tanya



PHOTOS BY GARVEY POTTER

Only Stephanie Weisberg of Fidelus Technologies gave an actual figure. "Depending on their skill set, starting salary is usually anywhere from \$35,000 to \$45,000 annually," said Weisberg, whose company had been affected by the 2008 US economic collapse.

"We were affected, but we're back. We're stronger than we were before," said Weisberg.

Meanwhile other companies fared better. "No, it did not affect us at all. We did not

I guess. I guess it didn't really affect us."

DiFeo also mentioned that The Hudson Auto Group offered full benefits to any full-time employees, much like many other companies at the career fair.

"Full benefits. Medical, dental, 401K, and pension also," said a smiling Ray Enyada of Sherwin Williams.

Ray Enyada, much like many other recruiters, was very friendly and personable.

THE NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS WORKING TO IMPROVE RESIDENCE LIFE

By KSENIA STSEPYETKINA
Contributing Writer '14

In late September of this year, Saint Peter's welcomed a new dean of students into the community. Before his arrival, Anthony Skevakis worked at a private school in Florida that was similar to Saint Peter's in size. As a Jersey native, Skevakis did not need much time to adjust to the area, so he was able to give his undivided attention to his new job. As the dean of students, Skevakis is responsible for overseeing the department of residence life. He is well aware that there have been many issues in the

past, but wants to keep his focus on the future.

"I can't rewind the clock and fix whatever happened," said Skevakis.

He said his primary goal is to keep moving forward and take things step by step. Even though the issues of the past should not be ignored, they should not be dwelled on either. Skevakis is working closely with the residence life staff to make sure things are running smoothly and improvements are being made. In regards to past complaints from students, Skevakis has only heard and seen positives.

When asked about Honey

Minkowitz's resignation, Skevakis said he did not know the details about her resignation. Meanwhile, the

"I can't rewind the clock and fix whatever happened,"

-Dean Skevakis

job opening for director of residence life is posted on the school website. They are currently accepting resumes, but have yet to set up any interviews. The plan is to hire someone come January so that Saint Peter's can start the new

year with a director in place. While the search is underway, the duties of director are not being ignored, according to the new dean.

"The job is getting done, it's just that multiple hands are doing it," said Skevakis.

He has read articles concerning residence life and student's issues. Though there are challenges, Skevakis feels the residence life staff is perfectly capable of handling the issues. At this time, everyone is working together as a team to make the transition of replacing staff members as smooth as possible, he said.

"The people are changing,

but the level of service is not," said Skevakis.

As the new dean of students, Skevakis feels he needs to be an advocate for the students in many different forms. Whether it is an issue with a resume, family problems, financial problems or any issues at all, the dean of students is there to listen and help. He encourages students to stop by his office, stop him in the hall, or contact him in any way to make a plan to make things better.

"We have an opportunity to hear the student voice and have me advocate for them to the rest of the administration, said Skevakis.

THE NEXT GENERATION NEEDS YOU

By NATALIE CASTILLO
Contributing Writer '14

Gang violence, failing schools, teen pregnancies, high school dropouts. All of these issues are becoming more and more common every day. And while some may blame society for these social issues, one organization believes change come from individuals making a difference.

The Big Brothers and Sisters Organization of Hudson, Essex and Union counties held a meeting Oct. 11 at McIntyre Hall at St. Peter's University to inform and recruit Saint Peter's students as mentors.

"It was truly a blessing to see that many people show up who wanted to simply become mentors to kids and wanted to do more," said President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Carlos Lejniaks. "It really speaks to the student body of Saint Peter's to have that kind

of level of commitment."

The Big Brothers and Sisters organization is one of the oldest and largest mentoring organizations for young adults in the United States. The purpose of this organization is to help children reach their full potential through relationships with older mentors who can guide them.

National research shows that these positive relationships between a child and their Big Brother, Big Sister mentor have had a tremendous effect on the children's lives. This program has helped children gain enough confidence to be more involved in school and reach out to their families about personal issues.

46% of these children are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27% are less likely to begin drinking alcohol and 52% are less likely to skip school, according to Making a Difference: An Impact Study of

Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Carlos Lejniaks was asked to take the position of President and CEO four years ago when the program was close to failing.

"I was approached by the board to help turn the agency around," said Lejniaks. "It was about to close its doors and they were seeking a new leader to make it happen. After a search process they asked me to be the CEO. They only had 100 kids in their program at that point and they knew that they had a lot of work [yet] to do. They wanted someone who connected in the community but then also who can grow the operation despite the fact that we were very small at that point; and financially there were all sorts of challenges."

The agency was first based in Newark and later expanded to Jersey City three and half years ago to work with its very first partner, Saint Peter's College.

"We reached out to Saint

Peter's because one of my board members is a Saint Peter's grad and he connected us to the president," said Lejniaks. "After what was just initially a meeting turned into a very dynamic conversation about what Saint Peter's is all about and what we're all about. We found out that there is a lot in common with the mission of Saint Peter's as well as our mission to do good."

"Saint Peter's speaks about service, social giving, and giving back and we are in that business as well. We offered the opportunity to help manifest that good intention that Saint Peter's has."

After handing out flyers and visiting classrooms to inform students about the organization, approximately 180 students attended the information session during the common lunch hour and 57 have been processed so far to become mentors while another



60 are waiting their turns.

"Students at Saint Peter's want to give back and they really have a heart and we offered them the opportunity to learn more about doing that," said Lejniaks.

After the interview and background check process, students who are chosen to become mentors will be matched with a student in the local Jersey City public school, P.S. 17. "Bigs" and "Littles" (meaning mentors and students) are matched based on preferences and personalities.

For one hour a week, Bigs will meet with their Littles and participate in different activities

to get to know each other. Site-based meetings also occur once a week in schools, libraries and community centers.

"One of my good friends who lives in Hoboken and mentors a child in Jersey City literally every week has that time carved out on a Saturday and he goes and he tosses the football around with his 'little' brother and his little brother

loves it!," said Lejniaks.

An important issue was touched upon in the meeting when principal of P.S. 17, Joseph Brensinger spoke about how many students are part of single family homes and are growing up with only mothers, aunts and grandmothers to look up to. He created a fraternity called T.-B.A.M.

A SAFE HAVEN FOR ALL P.R.I.D.E. STRIVES TOWARD ITS MISSION AT SAINT PETER'S.

By MATTHEW HOLOWIENKA
Staff Writer '15

The student organization P.R.I.D.E. has cemented its presence on the University's campus in past years and, according to the group's current members, the school only continues to support its efforts to provide a safe haven for every student seeking somewhere to belong.

Since its foundation in 2006, P.R.I.D.E. has strove not only to establish a presence for LGBTQ students on campus, but to also function as a force for equality, for tolerance, and for communication across all social distinctions.

"The organization's goal is to provide a safe place where people of all races, religions, sexual preferences, etcetera, can come together and speak about their issues and the issues of others," said Heather Helsel, the organization's current treasurer.

"For me, it's really just enlightening to help other people because I've been out since I was 18," explained Fargardo. "I wish I had someone like me to help me through when I was in the position I was in. I guess it kind of inspired me to be that person."

"When I first started at Saint Peter's, I did not have any friends that I could speak with about personal things," said Helsel. "P.R.I.D.E. gave me a place to speak about my issues without worrying that it would be all over campus. I hope that

others feel the same way." "I have personally gained a sense of friendship with many who have joined P.R.I.D.E.," said Sofia De Pierola, a P.R.I.D.E. member. "I wish more people knew about it so that we could continue to grow in numbers." David Surrey, professor and chair of Sociology and Urban Studies, has moderated the organization since its foundation. And according to Dr. Surrey, Saint Peter's as a whole continues to lend its support to the group's efforts.

"I think one of the beauties of Saint Peter's in general is that it's a real tolerant, accepting place," he explained. "Every Jesuit institution has a P.R.I.D.E. group or something like that. Saint Peter's has always been a place where diversity has been accepted."

And the organization's members attest to a feeling of acceptance from the administration and the student body alike.

"Most of the staff of the school that I know of are very supportive," said Bernadette Lamey. "When we do hold events, we have a high attendance."

"The school supports our group and Campus Ministry is a big supporter of our group as well," agreed Helsel. Yet, P.R.I.D.E. does not

low. This is not just an issue for the agency, but a national issue; meaning more men need to step it up and become role models. "At the end of the day, it's a very simple thing. We just need access to more men to be able to tell them, 'Hey, you don't have to change your life to change his,'" said Lejniaks. With an estimated amount of 3,200 students in Jersey

City public schools and 1,300 in P.S. 17, Big Brothers, Big Sisters needs a great number of volunteers to continue their success. For those who cannot give one hour of their day a week for a month, you can also help by recruiting and informing those who can. As a non-profit organization, donations are also helpful; every dollar counts.

for Protecting, Respecting Individuality, Diversity, and Equality. Although the organization may have a definite LGBTQ focus, its name may nevertheless provide a somewhat incomplete portrait of the full scope of its mission.

"We're a safe haven," explained current vice president, Nadirah Cherry. "Our name comes with the misunderstanding that we are geared towards LGBTQ students only, but we offer that to any student on campus."

"Our mission is just for everyone to have a place where they belong," added current president Nicole Fargardo. "I think one of the beauties of Saint Peter's in general is that it's a real tolerant, accepting place," he explained. "Every Jesuit institution has a P.R.I.D.E. group or something like that. Saint Peter's has always been a place where diversity has been accepted."

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"The school supports our group and Campus Ministry is a big supporter of our group as well," agreed Helsel. Yet, P.R.I.D.E. does not

ignore Saint Peter's religious roots, and its relationship with the school is one of mutual respect, explained Nicole Fargardo. "I try to adhere to the school's rules," she said. "December 1st is World AIDS day. We don't walk around handing out condoms."

Still, opening religious dialogues both among members and with the school at large is central in the organization's current activities.

"It is the same as any other P.R.I.D.E. or Gay-Straight Alliance," said Helsel. "The only difference is that some people are more religious in the group and our religion sometimes comes up in our talks at meetings."

"We have begun to open up the dialogue between religion and sexual preference," she added.

"We're getting more open with the school," explained Fargardo. "We had a gay theology panel three semesters ago where an openly gay minister came and spoke and kind of gave us different views on religion and views on homosexuality. It was one of P.R.I.D.E.'s more successful events."

Still, according to Fargardo, there will always be naysayers.

"My mom always told me that people are always going

to say something about you, whether you're doing good or bad."

But the possibility of criticism has not discouraged the group, and it continues to retain an active presence on Saint Peter's campus.

"We typically try to offer a diverse range of programs/events," said Nadirah Cherry. "We do LGBTQ awareness events, like the vigil we had in light of the Tyler Clemente suicide. We try to throw at least one or two parties a semester, usually a Halloween and Mardi Gras party."

"This year, we're actually having more events," said Fargardo. "We're having a candlelight vigil in November to look forward to. There's also movie nights about gay and lesbian issues, and everyone's welcome. We also have a retreat coming up."

Anyone interested in getting involved can freely take part in any of these events. You can also stop by the organization's Wednesday meetings at 5 p.m. in the Social Justice House.

"The club is open to people of all sexual identities, all gender identities," explained Dr. Surrey. "There are people who are very, very straight through people who are openly lesbian or openly gay. Sexual orientation is not a qualification for membership."

SOUNDS LIKE SCHOOL SPIRITS

THE GHOST STORIES OF SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY

By MATTHEW HOLOWIENKA
Contributing Writer '15

It happened in November. One particularly cold, dark night, Nathalie Staiger sat alone in the library. Closing time was drawing near, and the final stragglers were beginning to head home for the evening. The reference section soon stood dead, but unfortunately, there was still work to be done.

Books piled around her, Nathalie struggled to concentrate on her research. But suddenly, the floor creaked. Out of the corner of her eye, she noticed a man standing in front of her desk. As she raised her eyes, the figure seemed to take a step to the right, but when Nathalie looked up, he was gone. This phantom would reappear and vanish twice more that evening.

Founded in 1872, Saint Peter's University has an undeniably long history. Nathalie's story is only one of many accounts of supposed paranormal activity reported by students across campus. Ghosts from the school's past seem to have taken up permanent residence in practically every corner of the institution.

One such corner is the Roy Irving Theatre.

"If you go there late at night, there's a telephone not connected to anything that just rings randomly," senior James Palma said.

Senior Scott Miller has experienced this phenomenon firsthand.

"The ghost phone in the theatre is an old phone that is on the stage that isn't connected to a line," Miller explained. "Once, while waiting around on the last day of a performance, another actor and I heard a ringing. Thinking it was the other's phone, neither of us in initially questioned it."

But the eerie truth of the situation soon became clear.

"It kept ringing. We finally found out what it was, but we dared not answer the phone. We're not horror movie stupid."

Other unexplained events in the theatre include doors opening and closing by themselves and lights flickering on and off, said Miller.

"I was in the theater one night, and the back doors were locked, but you kept hearing someone pushing them," one anonymous student said. "And the music we were listening to turned off

which she purportedly haunted had already been removed by the time he arrived.

"The only thing that kind of stands out were these weird bruises that I got on my leg, close by my left knee, that seemed to be three scratches," he said. "It eventually turned into one big blotchy bruise, but it definitely appeared to be three scratches in the beginning."

Similar marks appeared on his elbow.

"I honestly don't know how I

"I was in the theater one night, and the back doors were locked, but you kept hearing someone pushing them," one anonymous student said. "And the music we were listening to turned off by itself. And the lights kept flickering. They flickered off like twice."

got those bruises," he explained. "But as a joke I claim it as the work of the ghost, but who knows?"

Other tales from Saint Peter Hall include otherworldly voices heard on the building's upper floors.

"When it's really dark, some nights you can hear laughing. Some nights, you can hear crying," senior Eric Stout said. "Boys hear laughing, girls hear crying. I have no idea if that's true, but I've heard about it."

Unexplained sounds also occur in Durant Hall, according to Stout.

"If you wake up really early and go down to the basement, you can always hear someone saying your name in Durant," he explained. "It'll be quiet as hell, and you'll just hear someone faintly say your name."

"I was folding my clothes in my room, and I heard like a knocking coming from the kitchen," resident Meedellie Simeon said. "I knew I was by myself in the apartment, and I went to look just in case someone had come in without me

noticing. No one was there."

The cellars of 140 Glenwood Ave. also have their share of ghostly noises.

"If you're down really early by yourself, you'll hear screaming. Like someone really close in the room with you," senior Daryl Greene said. "I'm a commuter, and I hear all the legends."

And along with her experience in the library last year, sophomore Nathalie Staiger reports odd occurrences in Veteran's Memorial

final top floor. We heard footsteps usually in the middle of the night that would wake us up."

And she is not the only one to make this claim.

"We heard people upstairs jumping around. We were on the fourth floor," former Whelan Hall resident Ayannah Garcia said.

"My mom even came to stay the night one night, not having any knowledge that we heard these strange footsteps, and she woke up the next morning asking if I was sure there wasn't a floor above me because she heard a lot of banging and movement," DiMauro remarked.

DiMauro also recounted an odd event experienced by her roommate.

"She was in front of the mirror doing her makeup when all of a sudden she heard really heavy breathing in her ear," DiMauro said. "So she turned around quickly to see if it was me or someone there, but I was still sleeping and there was no one else in the room with us."

Naturally, the land on which the University now stands has its own long history. Wealthy banker and manufacturer Edward F. C. Young helped fund a children's home at Glenwood Ave., according to NJCU's Jersey City: Past and Present website.

And according to the website, Young's own estate, where he died in 1908, began on Kennedy Blvd. and extended down Glenwood Ave. toward Westside Ave. It would have been where the school now stands.

But attaching names to haunts remains a difficult task, and for now, students continue to approach the subject with joking caution.

"It is too elaborate of a hoax to be tricks all the time, and some things may be explained by the age of the theater," Scott Miller said of his own experiences. "But everything? Well, I haven't taken any chances."

"On the fourth floor of Whelan, me and my roommate used to hear footsteps above us," she explained. "The only problem was we were on the fourth and

LADIES CHOICE

THREE DATES SPOTS THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK.

By MICHELLE RAGHUNANDAN
Contributing Writer '14

If you're thinking of taking your significant other, crush, or friend somewhere special; let's face it,

Jazzazz's, SPU's in-house café isn't cutting it anymore. No one wants to be taken on a "cheap date."

Three lovely ladies (who wished to remain anonymous) here on campus describe what they qualify as being a good date destination. Here are the top results based on their answers. These places are sure to get a second date without busting your wallet.

Lady #1- "I want to go somewhere different... I like to try new foods other than the typical pasta at a mundane chain restaurant," RP said.

Mantra (restaurant) -253 Washington Street, Jersey

City, New Jersey

Often garnering positive reviews from newspapers such as the New York Times and Star Ledger, Mantra is a crowd pleaser. The foods are rich in flavor as they are in color; with daring items such as Chicken Makhni and Lamb Vindaloo will have you coming back for more. Orange and red walls give a bright backdrop throughout the restaurant and adds to the South Asian theme. Prices range from \$8.00-\$26.00, but with plenty of options you can create a great experience fitting your budget.

Lady #2 "The spot should be interesting... something different from the norm," said HC.

Barcade (bar/arcade)- 163 Newark Avenue., Jersey City, New Jersey

For those of the legal drinking age, Barcade is



COURTESY OF BARCADE.COM

the perfect mixture of bar, arcade and restaurant. There are other chain bar/arcades places out there but Barcade is vastly different. Conceived by four college friends, the bar combines their love of draft beer and nostalgia of 80s arcade games. Barcade is very affordable with prices varying from \$2.00-\$15.00 dollars.

Lady #3 "It can be hanging with my friends or with my crush but a place with live entertainment is right for me," VJ said.

Saint Peter's University (Performing Arts Center) - St.Aedan's Church 800 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, New Jersey

Newly established SPU's performing arts center is close to campus. The center known as the PAC is aiming to be a cultural hub for the arts and entertainments. Some upcoming events includes a comedy show with Bill Cosby and "An Evening Doo Wop." Tickets for the show are a little pricey ranging from \$45.00-\$149.00 However prices are subject to change. Tickets for the Bill Cosby Show have been reduced to \$20.00.



COURTESY OF MANTRA.COM



Valerie and Dexter, students at SPU deciding where to go for a date
PHOTO BY MICHELLE RAGHUNANDAN

TOP 3 HORROR FILMS OF ALL TIME

By JOSE GOMEZ
Contributing Writer '14

When the dead have risen, demons have been possessed and an unstoppable killer has just ripped away through the victim's guts like paper mache, try not to use your hands as a shield between your eyes and the screen. All Hallows' Eve is back for another year of haunting tricks, delicious sweets, and gory, mysterious horror films.

There are those who love the great things about horror films because they contain those ingredients of massive amounts of bloody, grotesque images that question your thoughts of dream and reality and the supernatural phenomenons that give the audiences goose bumps. There are many who dislike horror films because the genre intends to give the audience that thrilling fear of a strange dark figure creeping behind the shadows, the ability of not being able to sleep without the lights on, and closing all doors to protect you from the monsters and things that go bump in the night. Others, such as Jennifer Ramphal, 19, a student at Saint Peter's University, enjoy watching horror films.

"I'm a seasonal fan. I only like watching them around Halloween," said Ramphal. "It's like listening to Christmas music during the holidays. Horror films are scarier during Halloween season."



COURTESY OF IMBD.COM

1976's *Carrie*, based on Stephen King's novel, *Carrie*, is a must-watch Halloween film. The film is about a shy, teenage girl named Carrie White attending Bates High School where the students are not exactly friendly to her and

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL

Number one on the top horror films of all time is the original 1959 *House on Haunted Hill* starring the horror legend Vincent Price.

House on Haunted Hill is a low-budget horror film with ear-popping screams, great German expressionism that gives the film an eerie look and a hint of humor to keep what's happening next unexpected.

"It's definitely a horror classic," said Ramphal. "I like the old horror tactics the movie uses. You don't need all those special effects and SGI like today's films. It's nice to be creeped out by natural and original effects."

House on Haunted Hill uses some strings and a couple of skeletons to creep the audience. It is actually amazing how a

floating skeleton could actually scare the dickens out the audiences in the 60s, but today that could make a simple nine year-old laugh.

Vincent Price puts the icing on the cake with his quirky gestures, simplistic charm and haunting voice that one cannot forget once heard.

Horror films have evolved from their low-budget

strings and plastic to their gory, bloody gut wrenching effects, but one can never defeat an original mystery behind a haunting tale and its surprise ending. The ending of any horror film is unpredictable, but you have to keep in mind that anything can happen in a horror movie. It all depends on how much fear one has.

CARRIE

on top of that, her mother is a strict religious Christian who abuses her. What makes this film unique is the fact that *Carrie* has telekinesis, but her powers are only shown during stressful moments or acts of anger until the moment when she has had enough.

"It's such an intensely, uncomfortable movie that's really chilling and definitely keeps you on the edge," said Ramphal. "My favorite part is the classic scene of *Carrie* standing on stage and is drenched in pig's blood. That look in her eyes is so creepy."

The buildup of *Carrie*'s abuse and exact revenge towards the school towards the ending of the films makes *Carrie* worthy of making it to number three on the top horror films of all time. But what frightens us even more than a vengeful, psychotic, telekinetic bullied teenager? A demon-possessed tween that can turn her head in a 360 degree angle.

EXORCIST

The *Exorcist* has been called since 1973 as one of the scariest films of all time. The movie was adapted from the book of the same title written by William Peter Blatty, which was based on the real exorcism of Roland Doe. What makes the film terrifying, besides the fact that the basis of the plot was based on an actual event, is its graphic content and psychological terror.

"Back then, in the 70s, horror movies weren't as graphic as they are today," said Joel Dilone, 22, a student of Saint Peter's University. "After watching the films, some people actually had to go seek psychological help because they couldn't handle what was being shown to them and other people had to go to the hospital right away."

According to listverse.com and its list of Twenty-Five Fascinating Facts about the *Exorcist*, a man who saw the film on its original release fainted during the films and

broke his jaw on the seat in front of him.

"Today, horror movies like *Saw* and *Final Destination* are extremely gory, but it's accepted. It's not taboo and most of the viewers know it's fake. They won't need barf bags in the theaters."

A film that sends its viewers to the hospital and has them faint from watching is a film that should come with a warning at the beginning credits, but then again, where would the trick in trick-or-treat be? The *Exorcist* makes it at number two in the top three horror films of all time.

Having a telekinetic teenager take her revenge on the student body and having the body of a girl possessed by a demon seem to keep the chills in the Halloween spirit alive and the audience at a standstill. What about the fear of ghosts, not necessarily killing or coming after someone, just haunting and having a person use that to their advantage?

STUDENTS DRESSED TO IMPRESS AT THE EOFSA MASQUERADE BALL

By YARLEEN HERNANDEZ
News Editor

Glitter, high heels, killer dress, sharp tux, bowtie. And, oh yes, a mask. This was the perfect combination to fit in with the glamorous, yet chill ambience of the EOFSA's first masquerade ball.



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE ALGARIN

The Masquerade Ball, sponsored by the EOF Student Association and F.A.M.E, took place on October 19th at McIntyre Lounge from 8PM until 11:30pm. The students dressed in semi-formal attire (although, many students made jaw-dropping arrivals with their elegant gowns and hot dates) and wore masks to conceal their identities.

"This year was the first time the EOF Student Association hosted the Masquerade Ball," said Ana Rodriguez, an EOF counselor. "This particular event exceeded our expectations; therefore, we plan to make it an annual tradition."

The event had conventional food (fried chicken, mozzarella sticks and lots of candy) a runway where the students could pose for pictures and even had DJ iLy spinning the turntables. The crowd truly seemed to be enjoying themselves.



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE ALGARIN



SPU couple dressed in red

PHOTO BY YARLEEN HERNANDEZ



SPU students and dancers enjoy the ball

PHOTO BY YARLEEN HERNANDEZ

MIKE BRAVO MEETS SCVM (SIC)

By BLAKE BOLES
Contributing Writer '13

Carter Lee, a war buddy of mine, was harassing me from a small hamlet in New Hampshire. As a co-producer of our online radio show, The Bravo Mike Bravo Show, he had every reason. I had promised to send him the latest recorded episode which featured an interview with a local guitarist, and my description over Skype would have to satisfy him until I had gotten off my lazy butt to send it.

"So, how did it go?" he asked.

"I thought it went well," I responded. "The skits went well, I was much more comfortable, and the guitarist had some people tune in."

"No shit," he said. Having any audience whatsoever was indeed news. Not only is our show relatively new, but it has gone almost completely unadvertised by WSPR, the Saint Peter's University radio station. Despite setting up my own Twitter, email and Facebook pages, I hadn't been able to even convince the station to type my name into the online schedule. I was convinced, after three shows, that I was broadcasting into dead air; having anyone tune in whatsoever was a watershed moment for us.

"So, who was this guy?" Carter asked, indication the guitarist.

"Luke Scvm," I said.

Lucas Ackerman can often be seen around the Saint Peter's University campus. I work with him in the mail room; and despite being 26, Lucas dresses as many of the traditional undergrads do. His shaved head is perpetually covered in a trendy cap depicting one of several NBA teams. His tee shirts declare allegiance to obscure bands, his jeans are baggy and show the tops

of his boxers, and his gym shoes are loosely laced. He has an easygoing personality, a relaxed laugh, and is eminently approachable. What the students at Saint Peter's might



COURTESY OF SCVM

not realize, though, is that Lucas has an alter-ego. He's a founding member of popular local band called the Hudson County Scvmbags (yes, the spelling is intentional), and portrays the lead guitarist, Luke Scvm.

'Luke Scvm' is quite a different entity entirely. I had no idea how different until I invited him to appear on the show. I asked Lucas what his doppelganger was like.

"Well, let me put it this way," he began. "If you are someone that is easily offended, or politically correct, then you are going to hate us."

Awesome, I thought ruefully. Just the guy I need to bring on an online radio show at a Jesuit institution. Still, it's not like anybody from the school is going to listen, so screw it. Luke Scvm was booked.

I prepped the studio as early as I could, because the system can be temperamental. I got everything ready, and mentally went over the questions I

would ask. I knew some things beforehand, simple background info. Lucas and the lead singer started the band five years ago; and though they've rotated through

a myriad drummers and bassists, the duo has been the one constant. They've played all over Hudson County, but haven't broken beyond. They apparently have stand-up skits in between songs like 'Colt 45 Drunk' and 'Feasting on Human Flesh'. From their Facebook page, which I could only find once and haven't been able to locate again, there are questionable wigs and bandanas involved.

Lucas met me outside the studio early. We gingerly walked around the cables and wires as I explained the entire system. He was accommodating, calm, and in high spirits. We performed mic checks. I reminded him not to curse –it is a Roman Catholic institution, after all– but that I wasn't going to censor him. He seemed pleased. On a Wednesday night in a roach motel of a studio, the clock ticked over to 6:00 p.m. I played my intro, and introduced my guest to millions of possible

listening computers that were undoubtedly listening to something else.

And that's when Luke Scvm emerged.

It's not so much of a voice

change, I discovered. Rather, it's a change in attitude, of –appropriateness. Things started benignly. I wanted to ease into Luke Scvm, his music, and the band's persona.

"So, Luke," I started. "What exactly makes a scumbag?"

"Well, it's all about a state of mind. It's all about not being politically correct, about drinking, hanging out with friends, chasing skirt...you know. Just being a typical scumbag. Just think of a scumbag, you must get blind drunk, hang out with fellow degenerates, and harass random women?"

"Yep. Pretty much."

"Now, you pretty much have to be a male to be a scumbag, right?"

"Oh, no. We have female scumbags."

"You do?"

"Yeah. Scumettes. Even

the Scumettes do all that stuff. Our lead singer is a Scummette."

"Really. You should give me her number."

"She's a lesbian, dude."

The story of my life. But I digress.

I then wanted to get into one of his songs. He had assured me the two songs he had picked we radio safe. So I led into 'Colt 45 Drunk,' playing it straight from Facebook, and cut the mics. I turned to Luke Scvm, now Lucas, and had a pleasant conversation. He was really enjoying himself, and was stoked for the publicity. I listened a little to the music; it was rough, raw, and angry. True punk; nothing like Green Day or some other faux punk pop bands. Lucas fielded several text messages from his friends stating they were listening. The song was almost finished and I got ready to transition back into the interview. It was then I noticed the lyrics were heavily referencing rape. This was not The System is raping us punk.

This was Imma RAPE you punk. I inwardly shuddered, but the show had to go on. "We're back. That was the legendary Hudson County Scvmbags with 'Colt 45 Drunk', only on the Bravo Mike Bravo Show. And if you're just joining us, we have their guitarist, Luke Scvm in the studio."

"And that's it for sports. This is The Bravo Mike Bravo Show. We're here with Luke Scvm, and we'll be back after this track from an Aussie band called 'End of Fashion'. It's called 'Fussy', and you'll only hear it here..."

"Hold up, hold up. You're gonna have Luke Scvm, of the legendary Hudson County Scvmbags, on your show, and you're gonna play some girly, weak stuff like 'Fussy'? Naw, man, play another track from our album, dude!"

He grabbed the mouse and

"Really?" I asked. "Wandy Blackheart from Argentina? Well, thank you, Wandy! We appreciate the help."

"Yeah," Luke said. And then in a horrible, false Latino accent, "Oh! It make-a me cry! Ha-HA-ha-ha-ha-haaaaa!"

I noticed how weirdly out of place his segue was, but made no mention of it. I played a song from a friend of the Scvmbags called the Krays; and while praying to whomever the patron saint of bad radio is the song was Catholic-university friendly, asked Lucas about it.

"Oh, yeah. She's hot dude. She was giving me a b*** j** and I was holding her head down like this. When she got up, she had tears in her eyes, and said 'Oh! It make-a me cry!' All my friends laugh about it, like an inside joke."

Lucas had told me beforehand that Luke Scvm was different from himself. Though I had some suspicions about it earlier, the moment he explained the choking b*** j** comment confirmed something else for me: that Luke Scvm wasn't merely a character for Lucas to portray, but possibly a vehicle for the man to act out his darker tendencies.

The Krays song ended. Before it did, it dropped an F-bomb. I had a few segments and a PSA to perform, and plowed through them. I gave little room for Luke/Lucas to interject. Afterwards, I wanted to play a song I liked when I lived in Australia.

"And that's it for sports. This is The Bravo Mike Bravo Show. We're here with Luke Scvm, and we'll be back after this track from an Aussie band called 'End of Fashion'. It's called 'Fussy', and you'll only hear it here..."

"Hold up, hold up. You're gonna have Luke Scvm, of the legendary Hudson County Scvmbags, on your show, and you're gonna play some girly, weak stuff like 'Fussy'? Naw, man, play another track from our album, dude!"

He grabbed the mouse and

pointed it out.

"Fair enough," I said. "Although, I know 'Fussy' sounds like a weak name, but it's an awesome track. But yeah, we'll go ahead and play another track from the Hudson County Scvmbags called... um...'Feasting on Human Flesh'. Only on The Bravo Mike Bravo Show."

I cut the mics and played the track. I heard no rape or curse words. Luke/Lucas got another text.

"It's my girlfriend. She says we sound awesome."

"Wandy?"

"No, my girlfriend, Rose."

"So, you...but, you mentioned Wandy on air."

"Yeah. Look, man. Wandy knows about it, and she's cool with it. You just gotta be up front, man. You tell 'em you just want the sex...you know, be a prick...and they love that shit."

I couldn't tell if I was talking with Luke or Lucas. I wasn't sure there was much of a difference. The last track ended, and the show was coming to a close. I had to close up a few things before we went off air.

"Well, we got a few more minutes so I have to say a few things before we go. If you are a student having trouble adjusting, or coping with some problems in life, contact the Office of Personal Development immediately. They've got some great people that you can talk to..."

"Oh, yeah, that reminds me," Luke said. "If you're a little whiney baby who's crying over being bullied, why don't you just hit them back? Why go crying to somebody? People didn't used to do that, you know? They'd handle their own business. So stop being a little baby."

I was stunned, and tried not to show it by transitioning as fast as I could.

"Yeah, well, here's something really serious to me. I don't know if you guys know this, but if you listen to the show, you know that I'm

an Army combat veteran. And did you know, Luke, that the Army averages one suicide per day? That's a higher casualty rate than the soldiers face in



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Afghanistan. So please, if you're a soldier having a hard time adjusting to civilian life –and believe me, I've been there—then please call the VA crisis hotline..."

I gave the number. Luke was subdued and supportive, and offered no quips. It was mercifully time for me to wind up.

"Well, that's it for the Bravo Mike Bravo Show for this week. But before we go, I just want to thank Luke Scvm of the Hudson County Scvmbags for coming in..."

"Thanks for having me,

dude!"

"...and for coming in, I present you with your very own WSPC rubber wristband."

"Awesome, dude! The

was thrilled with the show's result, and wanted a copy. I assured him I'd get it to him. I have yet to send it to him, or to Carter.

"So, how did it go?" Carter asked.

I thought of the million ways I could answer. I thought I should tell him that it didn't go well, despite having listeners for the first time. I should've mentioned that I felt uneasy; not from the f-bombs or rape music, or the fact that someone in control of my academic destiny might've been listening. I was disturbed about what is seen as normal in other men.

I don't ever want to be a prick just to be successful with women. I've had several guys tell me I have to "be mean to keep 'em keen." It's a mantra I cannot relate to, would never ascribe to. I have a daughter, and would absolutely murder a guy if he treated her mean just to keep her keen. Here's the thing: I like Lucas. He seems like a great guy. I'm glad my daughter won't date him, though. In fact, there are very few people at this school who would get my seal of approval. Their attitudes on women are horrible; and I wonder if the women respect these so-called men for mistreating them because they don't want a pushover and can't tell the difference.

All this went through my mind when Carter asked me how the show went. You wanna know how it went, man? As of right now, I feel old fashioned, out of place obsolete. I feel afraid for my daughter when she reaches dating age. I feel like I have no one to relate to. I'm questioning myself because I haven't had a date in ten months, while scumbags do well. I wonder if my work for the homeless is futile, because the younger generation doesn't seem to care. I feel like I never should have left the Army. I feel old, my friend.

"I thought it went well," I said.

REPRESENTING A GENDER

FEMALE CHARACTERS IN BOOKS UNDER CRITICISM

BY EMILY ALEQUIN
Arts Editor

She's often young; sometimes a teenager, sometimes a woman in her late 20's. Her personality ranges from being awkward to exceptionally confident, from being kind-hearted to domineering, and even from being branded an outcast to becoming an upstanding heroine. She exists solely as

favorite, and even most-hated heroines and antagonists.

But what exactly are these non-changing elements that cause the dislike or the praise?

The first issue readers seem to have is that female characters are often placed into "stereotypes" and it's only when the character breaks from these that she makes an impression with readers.

"My usual impression of female characters in books

to the female's personality, appearance, social standing in school/society, or the current conflict she's heavily dealing with?

"It all usually comes down to what type of role the lead female character will play in the story. They're represented as strong and brave; yet they can be shy and have laid back personalities. Or they can be loud, eccentric, outgoing and be deeply flawed at the same

or "why would he be interested in me?" If the character is not serious and grounded, she may be bubbly and eccentric or even completely detached from the social world; the list goes on and audiences continue to react and argue about the values of each "type" of female.

As readers, we tend to place ourselves into the shoes of the character we're reading about and we'll react and reflect and make judgements

and that's it," said Francesca Rizzo, a Junior at Saint Peter's University. "My impression of female characters is that authors like to portray them as weak or soft spoken in the beginning, but when a big twist or traumatic event occurs, the author usually has the female character rise up to the occasion and gain strength to prove herself."

Representing a gender means female characters have



PHOTO BY EMILY ALEQUIN

paper thin; printed on the pages that tell her story. She is the female character (be it protagonist or antagonist) of the in-numerous books of varying genres.

Whether she's fighting for her life or fighting against horrible and inescapable teen hormones, the female character has continuously changed throughout these past few decades of literature. Still, there are things that refuse to change when it comes to our

are their delicate nature, most of the time, they are socially-awkward but have a beautiful exterior as well as a wholesome personality that attracts every male in the story," said Leila Rodriguez, a communications major at Saint Peter's University.

It is true that when an author describes a female character, he or she will choose what they want to have stand out the most about that character. Does the writer wish to draw attention

time, lacking courage." Said Leila.

So what exactly are the "stereotypes" of the disputed female protagonist? There are countless books that center around "the new girl" transferring to a completely new school in a new location, yet on her first days she'll capture the interest of the hottest or most wanted guy at the school. Usually this is despite the continuous statements that "he could have anyone he wants"

of the character's thoughts and actions. But though this is a normal reaction, there are some readers who might believe there's a deeper meaning to reading stories with a female protagonist.

"In some novels I believe female characters are expected to represent a stereotypical female, as in our gender in general. Sometimes though, I think the female character is just meant to be a character to prove the point of the story

become a sort of role-model to all age groups, which is a heavy burden to bear.

When we look at a character, what are we expecting to find? How do others react when hearing about these characters who either deal with conflicts well or fail to stand on their own? Is there a focus on this failure?

"I don't think it's just about the failure, it's more about how that character will redeem herself after it," said M.A.; a

student who wished to remain anonymous. "Every character deals with some sort of problem in their story and even if it's not, you know, something we really care about like her relationships or something wrong with her family, I think we're just trying to find parts of that that we can either approve of or put down because we just want to see how she'll react as not just the female character but as a person."

Developments in a plot or the character herself can either form or break the connection with the reader because it all returns to the judgements we will make about the character's choices. From these judgments, readers pick apart pieces of the character to uncover what it is that they dislike so much. This character may have a personality as dry as a bone or maybe she's too pushy/violent or comes off as being too perfect or even completely clueless.

Bernice Olona stated that it all depends on where the dislikes lie. Just as there are many genres and lovers of each, there are readers who prefer certain types of characters over the rest

because they find things about those characters to admire. While some may prefer to read of strong female leads with heavy responsibilities, others are drawn to the more shy or enclosed characters simply because they feel a stronger connection to that type.

"I guess it's that people are reading about these characters in a different light that they don't see them more than stupid or weak," Said Bernice. "I'm sure if they read a bit more into their story, that they're gonna see something there that'll change that thinking - like for example, the girl with hot guy might be struggling with something that in the process, the hot guy fell in love with her not just because she's pretty or something."

Other readers might often complain that it is no longer enough for a female character to just be "loving and caring." Many stories involve undertones or heavy romantic elements and family conflicts.

There will always be the female who is represented as being the motherly figure but readers find this character to be expected or typical of a female. Other issues lie in the "unrealistic" appearances of some of these

characters and the dislike for females who are described as being so awkward or out of touch with reality, yet they still have the face and body to keep themselves attractive to others. Why is their an overly-generalized description of some of these characters and in many cases why is there rarely any mention of what the characters social background or nationality is? Ask any reader about a recent book they're reading and question the ethnicity of the characters and you might get a mixed response or uncertainty and assumptions.

"I do think there has been a change with how women are portrayed in books, though, but there is plenty of room for more improvement," said Bernice. "I mean, if looking at this at a gender equality perspective, female characters in books shouldn't be a big issue compared to how male characters in books are - well, like how hunger games was represented - automatically, they focused in on the romantic love triangle of Katniss, instead of whatever things she had to do to survive and the problems she had to face."

Progression through the years has created even more female characters that have more to deal with than what they used to. Female protagonists now find themselves having to deal in heavier conflicts such as: government and conspiracy (just pick up any book like "Legend" by Marie Lui, "Divergent" by Veronica Roth, and yes "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins; to name a few.)

"I definitely believe roles of female characters in books has changed alongside the change of women's roles in society," said Francesca. "There are books today about women who have overcome obstacles to become a powerful or respected person. That is because as time has gone on, women aren't the same soft spoken or looked over people they were way back when."

But can the same be said of male characters? Readers have also voiced their opinions on the male characters who are always interacting with the female characters.

"Every time I pick up a book, the guy's either, you know, 'the bad boy' or 'the sweetheart' or just that sarcastic nerdy type

and I'm just wondering 'where the heck are the other regular guys in these things?'" said M.A. "Half of these other guys have a dark past or they're just too, I don't know, perfect. It's like they're expected to just stand there and look pretty while being there to support the female, protect her or just be the sexy boy-toy."

M.A also pointed out that she believes body types for males are also greatly specified in novels and that the male will either have a well built body with amazing muscles, a torso that should be identified as a "lethal weapon" or he'll be attractively slim but never any other variations of those two.

The issue isn't just with female characters in literature, since other problems lie within the images created to represent the opposite gender as well. It all comes down to choice; do you tend to look through the same genre? Do you look for a similar plot-line or character type? Or do you find yourself spending extra time to find something that is different?

Maybe there should be new thoughts, forms and creations to help expand and add to this market's culture.

OPINION

DON'T CALL ME A UNICORN

CONFESSIONS OF A COLLEGE VIRGIN

BY NICHOLAS MEDEROS
Managing Editor

One of my absolute favorite shows on television is "Community". The writing is impeccable, the actors are hilarious and the show itself is more meta than any other show on TV. My only complaint, after all these years, is to a joke made in the first season. A character reveals that even

though she is in college, she is also a virgin. Another character responds by saying, "Being a virgin in this day and age is something to be proud of, you're like a unicorn." While I understand the joke and still laugh at its presentation to this day, the fact that characters display shock that someone among them is a virgin makes me think whether or not this is meant to be an exaggeration of

the idea that a person in college is expected to have lost their virginity. I think this because I myself am a college student and a virgin.

The first time I was labeled as a "virgin" was in the fifth grade when we all thought we knew what the phrase meant. To us, it meant you hadn't kissed a girl yet. If this were true, I would have lost my "virginity" in high school and

probably wouldn't even be writing this article. The point is, nobody knew what a virgin really was and yet everyone seemed to be concerned with making sure they weren't one.

Fast forward a few years: I'm now in the eighth grade and still nobody can give me a better understanding of the word. By now, I was more clear on the facts of life and was about to be called into a school

assembly that was supposed to "answer any questions we had about sex." They separated the class by gender and put us in separate classrooms where we were met by our parents who were there to make sure we understood what was being said by the presenter. After an hour of being told by a representative of a Christian group against abortion, I was thoroughly convinced

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that I wouldn't be getting one done anytime soon. I left the classroom with more questions than answers about what exactly "sex" is.

In retrospect, I understand that a Catholic grade school couldn't give us a lecture explaining sex but I still felt cheated out of an explanation as to what a virgin was and why other people in my class said they weren't one. People were telling me that there were rules to what made somebody a virgin and what made somebody a... This is another point that's confused me. Despite my being an English major, I find that there isn't a word for someone who isn't a virgin. Therefore, I've chosen to use writer John Green's suggestion and use the word "virgOUT". Once I got to high school, I realized that virginity was an open book. People interpreted what it meant in different ways based on what they thought it meant.

In high school, I fell in love. I "fell in love" multiple times in high school but this time I,

honest to God, slipped, trip, busted my lip, and fell in love. Once I was in this relationship (my first one, by the way), I found people asking me all sorts of questions. The most popular of which was whether or not we had had sex. I'll spoil the ending for you and tell you that we didn't but that didn't matter to either of us. We loved and were loved in return and we couldn't have asked for anything more. We were young and awkward and are now older and slightly-less awkward but to this day, neither of us care whether or not we had sex. We loved and that was all we needed.

After years of wondering what a virgin was or wasn't, I came to a realisation: I didn't care. The term was introduced to me by my fellow God-fearing classmates who had been raised on the idea of sex being a villainous act that robs a person this beautiful thing called virginity. Virgins are no more beautiful than virgouts and virgouts are no more special or gifted than virgins.

The term virgin had gained a different meaning since I had first been called it and all the while, it seemed to lose its sting.

Being a virgout has no effect on who you are as a person. Losing your virginity, an expression intended to make it seem like a piece of you dies when you first have sex, is a term that gained popularity in the olden days, when sex was something that was understood to happen, but never spoken about or mentioned (sort of like the Green Lantern movie. Your virginity or lack thereof does not make you any more or less of a human. Words were created to explain the human experience to one another but "virgin" is a word that has lost that power.

I can obviously only speak from the male perspective but I can only imagine what the experience of learning about virginity is like for women. It's coupled with terms like "deflower" that bear the visual of a woman's beautiful bloom being lost as soon as she has

sex. The idea of virginity should hold no more importance in a man's eyes than a woman's. The double standards that women have to face in our society are disgusting enough without the idea of being criminalized for having sex included in them as well. This begs another question. What about the homosexual population? What does the term virgin mean to them? The archaic nature of the word is made obvious when it fails to apply to a large portion of the population.

By the time college rolls around, the term should be obsolete. As I say to every freshman I meet, college makes every person be the very best they can possibly be. If this is true, then why focus on whether or not a person has had sex when you can focus instead on the deeper characteristics they possess that shine past their virginity or lack thereof.

If a person is saving themselves for marriage, I entirely understand. Why not save the ultimate expression of

physical love for the person you ultimately love? In high school we had a speaker who came to talk to us about virginity and how important it was to stay celibate. While I disagree with nearly everything he said about how important it is to remain "as pure for as long as possible", I do respect his belief that his wife should be the first person he shares his body with.

The word virgin is a word that doesn't make sense anymore in its current use. It acts almost as a border between innocence and adulthood. For some, it means someone hasn't had sex. For others, it means someone that has had a sexual experience. There are those who think that virgin is a term that defines a person and there are those who seek to redefine the term virgin. Regardless of what it means, the fact of the matter is that our obsession with the word is time and effort that could be spent on other things (such as remaking the Green Lantern movie or inventing a word that means "not a virgin").

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE CHEMISTRY OF LOVE?

SEROTONIN, ADRENALINE, OXYTOCIN AND JUST A DASH OF DOPAMINE; ALL A PART OF THE COMPLEX REACTION CALLED LOVE

BY EMILY ALEQUIN
Arts Editor

Love: Everyone speaks of it, many claim to have felt it and know what it is, and others claim to know the signs and symptoms of love. And, of course, there's the infamous notion of "love at first sight", but what does all of this even mean and does love at first sight actually exist? More importantly, can a person truly die of a broken heart?

First off "love at first sight" might take a little longer than

we thought; it's more like 4 minutes and 90 seconds. When we see someone for the first time, we might take interest but everything after that becomes much more complicated, despite our belief of having an instant connection with the other.

Studies reveal that our initial interest in another has to do more with the way they act and look, instead of what they say. Our brains are looking for a type of message to decode from the actions and body language of the other and

this is the way that our brains choose to decipher these messages.

According to the percentages, impressions rely very little on what we say:

*55% is through body language

*38% is the tone and speed of the voice

*7% is through what they say

To further explain, the reason why body language is the most important is because it can often be what causes

someone to give off or receive mixed messages. If your body is not fully facing another person or if you're slightly turned away, it gives the impression that you're not 100% focused on the conversation. Also, frequent eye contact (that doesn't mean to stare at them through the entire conversation; that would be a little weird) will help to let the other know that you are really paying attention or that you're interested in hearing more. Be mindful of the way your stance is when talking to another; if

you're sitting are you too lazily, slouched over, and if you're standing, check your posture. Facial expressions are also key because they're another way to show that you are in fact listening and looking to offer a response.

Tone and speed of one's voice is very influential because our brains are capable of interpreting many types and forms of sound (such as someone's voice) differently depending on the type of sound it is as well as its pitch, tone, etc. When talking to someone,

the other person's voice remains low with no changes in tone or pitch, or practically monotone, the one listening begins to pick up or believe that the other is disinterested or doesn't want to contribute to the conversation. If the person happens to have a voice that is constantly changing in its pitch, or if they're talking really fast or stuttering, it shows that they're nervous around the other person and in the conversation, which could lead to a number of interpretations. All of this sounds weird when trying to connect it to a simple conversation between peers of someone you've just met. But when you think about it, when people are being publicly interviewed, or a applying for a job, the person that is questioning them and holding a conversation with them is also focusing on their voice and body language because it's the two crucial parts of conveying a certain message.

Once these messages are processed (aka: once you've spent the next ten to twenty minutes replaying the entire scene in your mind) you might start to enter into the following stages of "love."

1.) Lust - (ywes, lust is first.) Simple enough; it's driven by arousal which has to do with the testosterone levels in men and the estrogen levels in women. We see someone we think is attractive or our type and we automatically decide if we like the way they look or not and that's that. Next comes the question of if we're genuinely interested or not.

2.) Attraction - When you begin to think of this person too many times in one day to count; where are they at the moment? What are they doing? What are they thinking about? Even if you're not purposely thinking of, or mentioning them you might find yourself having random thoughts of them without even trying. Scientists link this to neurotransmitters of the

brain which control thought processes; mostly unconscious ones and our emotions towards another. Dopamine elicits a pleasure response because this chemical is responsible for desire we feel towards another. Another would be Serotonin,

while we deal with the inner turmoil of what to say, how to say it, and what will even happen once we've said it! This all has to do with the stress we begin to feel and it affects our blood levels and of course our heart rate.

shared between each other. Two hormones that play a role in attachment are oxytocin, which is responsible for feelings of romantic attachment (also empathy) or increased arousal felt about the significant other,

break? Can someone truly die of a broken heart? According to studies, the answer is yes and it comes in the form of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, also known as "heartbreak syndrome" and it is an actual heart attack brought on by a 'broken heart.'

This syndrome is greatly connected to stress which will make a person want/need more oxygen; which is normal. But pile that up with mixed feelings and emotions, not wanting to do anything anymore, exhaustion, mental pain and anguish, and your body will want double what you need and lead to issues such as heightened blood pressure.

Stress can cause the body to hyperventilate which leads to too much oxygen being pumped through your body too fast that your blood which is being transported through the body has a hard time keeping up. As the heart tries to do its best pumping as much blood that is needed in the body to keep all processes stabilized it is initially exhausting itself and could actually burst; it's like squeezing a fully inflated balloon and essentially crushing it to the point that it finally pops. "Heartbreak" syndrome is mostly believed to be experienced by older individuals who have known the loved one for many years or most of their life; for example, older married couples because of the attachment that has built up through the years, even decades.

Even with all of this information, it's still unclear when exactly someone will come to the revelation that they are in fact in love with another person. Timing, personal experience and desires for ones future are all part of many more aspects to consider. When is the right time to reveal those intimate details, to spend more time or to decide if one's ready to really take the next step? It all comes down not just to the science, but to the individual.



PHOTO BY EMILY ALEQUIN

which is closely related to the happy emotions triggered by whatever (pleasing) thing passing your way, it is responsible for filling your mind with thoughts of your significant other. A final aspect of being attracted to another is adrenaline; that wonderful thing that causes our hearts to race, our stomach to go into knots, makes our palms sweat and our mouths go dry, all

3.) Attachment - The last stage, which can strengthen or even weaken over time depending on the relationship and individual. It's a bond that can keep a couple together through the years or maybe the rest of their lives. This stage is strengthened through prolonged time spent with the other and the amount of intimate details

and Vasopressin, which is connected to the stages of commitment within attachment (mainly long-term). Both hormones tend to be released after intercourse between the couple.

So all of these help to explain arousal, peaked interest, attraction, and eventually attachment to another, but what happens when one deals with heart

DO YOU KNOW THE LATEST NOBEL LAUREATES?

By Prajwal Niraula
Science & Tech Editor

The tradition of Nobel Prize is longer than a century now, yet the prize remains an emblem of prestige. It brings happiness and joy, not only to a person or an institution involved, but to a nation, which longs to cherish any such precious moments. Calls were made in the middle of the night, and Swedish tones at one end try to convince the puzzled at the other that the greatest recognition has been bestowed upon them. Then, there were the overwhelming phone rings, tons of messages and emails of congratulations. There were probably many similarities in the experience of the nine newly declared Nobel Laureates of this year.

Serge Haroche from Collège de France and David J. Wineland

from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shared the Nobel Prize in Physics “for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems.” In the field of chemistry, Robert J. Lefkowitz from Duke University and Brian K. Kobilka from Stanford University shared the prize. They have been awarded the award “for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors.”

Similarly in medicine the Nobel Prize went to Sir John B. Gurdon of Cambridge University and Shinya Yamanaka of Tokyo University. To quote the Nobel committee’s words, they were given the Nobel Prize “for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent.” In literature, Mo Yan, a Chinese national, was awarded the Nobel Prize for his contribution as a writer “who

with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary.” The Nobel Peace Prize went to European Union for “for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.” And the most recently added field of the Nobel Prize, the Nobel Prize in economics, was shared by Alvin E. Roth from Harvard University and Lloyd S. Shapley from University of California, Los Angeles “for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design”.

Perhaps the most interesting story behind all the Nobel Prize of 2012 was of Sir John B. Gurdon. A report card from Eton College in 1949 records him as a stubborn and a hopeless student in science. In fact, he graduated among the last of the 250 students. It is indeed inspiring to learn about his transition from his “hopeless”



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state to the Nobel Laureate he has become today. 2012 Nobel Prize also highlights the new trends in the field of science. For instance, the Nobel Prize in chemistry shows the growing trend in an interdisciplinary research in the field of science, and the growing

recognition in the importance of such works. While the Nobel Prize grants recognition and monetary reward to the distinguished few, we can, at the same time, be inspired by the stories of success behind them.

VARIETY

AMERICA’S WOMEN CAN FINALLY SLEEP SOUNDLY

By Yarleen Hernandez
News Editor

Women feared for their ovaries in the recent presidential election between President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney. The election became a mud-slinging contest over several issues, including many women’s and human rights questions.

Another important, though perhaps less publicized, race in this election pitted New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat, against -- Joe Kyrillos, the republican contender. The women’s issues torn apart in the presidential

election were equally relevant to the senatorial race for NJ District 13. Menendez, a Saint Peter’s alum, was victorious in the race largely because political experts say of the benefits he and his party promised to women.

“It wouldn’t be fair if I didn’t . . . thank all the women who are working to re-elect Senator Menendez,” said Joan Quigley, a representative from Menendez’s office.

“There are so many, of all ages, staff and volunteers, who know he is our best chance to continue protecting and preserving our hard-earned rights.”

Before the election, Quigley visited Saint Peter’s University to participate in

FOCUS’s “Don’t Vote Without Protection” event. The Female Organization for Campus Unity and Solidarity gave students the opportunity to learn about women’s issues in recent the election.

Dr. Marilyn Cohen, head of the Women’s Studies department and advisor to FOCUS, thought the event would be particularly important at a Catholic university.

“As a feminist, I am passionately pro-choice and feel passionately about many of these issues,” said Dr. Cohen. “I

think that it’s fair to say this is a Catholic institution, there are probably a wide range of views on birth control and abortion and I can accept that and that is why I was so grateful and pleased that Father Rocco was so open-minded. I can’t tell you how much I respect that because that is what Jesuits are about, academic freedom.”

According to Quigley, Senator Menendez has always been in favor of women’s contraceptives as compared to Kyrillos.

“[Senator Kyrillos] has consistently voted in Trenton to

limit the rights of abortion, to limit access to contraception, and has repeatedly failed to vote yes on funding for women’s health programs.”

Senator Menendez’s re-election to the New Jersey Senate, as well as Romney’s defeat in the presidential race, holds significant consequences for women both in our area and nationwide. Quigley was quick to point out the benefits reaped with a Democrat in the White House and in the majority of the Senate.

“We’re on the right side of the issues. We are protective

of women, we are protective of poor people. We don’t believe ‘I’ve got mine, you get your own’ and I’m afraid that’s what the republicans believe. The republicans want to go back to the way things were during the Bush years, under the Reagan years and if we’re going to go back, I’m not going back any farther than the Clinton years when we had a surplus and the country was booming. So I think we are making progress. You can’t vote for today, you have to vote for tomorrow with the knowledge of yesterday.”

“We try to make the point

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was greatly disappointed with the front page of the [third issue of] Pauw Wow and the accompanying article inside that addressed the fact that tuition has increased for most Saint Peter’s University students between 2010 and 2011. I have no problem with people criticizing my school when said criticism comes with educated perspectives and is backed up with bona fide facts. I felt like the article could’ve used much more of both of these for the following reasons:

Obviously one of the first things that struck me was the photography accompanying the article. What is the significance of showing the Enrollment Office when it is closed? What message is that sending to the people who work hard to offer personalized time and support for the thousands of students who receive financial aid? Obviously the issue of tuition is bigger than

the office, just like the issue of student debt is bigger than this school and therefore can be addressed as such. You picked the photograph because it was controversial and confusing enough to get people to pick up papers, neglecting the fact that it has nothing to do with student debt and sends the worst kind of message about our school to prospective students.

My first issue with the article itself starts with the writer implying that they are going to be brutally honest for the sake of journalistic integrity: everyone is here for the money! This is no one’s first choice school! I saw this introduction as not only excessively negative but also contradictory. Saint Peter’s University is one of the best private schools in terms of awarding financial aid and scholarship and that is why people come here, and yet we are “drowning in debt”? Instead of writing an article about how student debt is a devastating issue facing our country and

that Saint Peter’s is faring with it better than most schools, the article chooses vilify the school that works so hard to meet everyone’s financial needs.

My second issue was the personal statements that were chosen to affirm the predetermined agenda to hold the institution and select individuals responsible for how much students will be paying back when they graduate. The first quote was from an anonymous senior who expressed the same concerns that most students who have ever graduated from anywhere have had: getting a job, getting into grad school, and paying back the loans. The second source was from alumni Danielle Woods (who graduated in 2010, before this whole tuition inflation drama even occurred) who says herself that she could’ve saved more money and picked a more employable career. Were students with a variety of career plans unreachable? What about the one out of

every ten students who have had all of their financial needs met? And if you can’t print their responses, then at least point me in the direction of a school where more than 70.1% of the average needs of the student were met. Lane College of Tennessee is the ninth most affordable college in the country, and even their average percent of student financial need that they were able to meet was 74%.

Saint Peter’s University has recently been making several new innovations to the campus and public advertisements, like a new Mac computer lab, promotion of its newly declared university status, and the much-anticipated new student center. These improvements are met with disdain and suspicion instead of the excitement that I personally feel for them. I highly doubt that with the transition from college to university that school decided to shift their priorities from making sure that the private education

they offer remains affordable for most applicants to wasting all school’s endowment to buy really impressive, useless stuff. Also, the Mac Mahon student center will be named after the alumni donor that made it possible, so I don’t think that new building will be hitting students too hard financially. In a school where more than 90% of the faculty said that they were rather take a pay cut than have the people lose their jobs, I don’t think these new endeavors would have been pursued if it meant that the school would lose its affordable reputation.

In conclusion, I have nothing against criticizing the school as long as they’re done in a way that is informed and makes sense. I would like to see opinion pieces in the opinion’s section of the newspaper in the future.

Sincerely,
-Mary Steele
Class of 2014

Dear Pauw Wow,

After reading the last three issues about the paper I feel some type of way. The articles that have been posted are

negative and are degrading to the school. If you were writing these to get more attention, now you go it.

To start off the article that was posted about debt may

have true statistics, but they have been twisted in a way that don’t explain the real situation. If not all, most of college students will be in debt no matter where they attend.

Saint Peters is one of the few schools that I know of that give out as much financial aid as they do. To some people, Saint Peter’s isn’t their choice of school, but they were brought

here for one reason or another. All the people that you are questioning are negative. I’m not saying that student’s don’t have a right to feel one way or another towards the school, all

I am saying is that they should not be posted in articles to give the school a bad name. Open house is coming up soon, which means students will be able to see what is going on before they get here. Personally, I wouldn't want to come to a place where their own students are bashing the school. I feel that this article is an opinions piece that had some facts that were twisted in it. Not to mention, this piece should not be something that is posted on the front page. What should be posted on the front page are accomplishments or positive things that are going on, even successful events that the school is having. For example, the golf team just recently won a huge meet and have placed in the tournaments that they have been to so far, why are they not

front page. When the track team won, they were front and center. Do other sports not matter?

Not to mention, the articles about Honey are just getting ridiculous. I understand that positions in res life are a little short, but don't speak before you know the facts. The reason why no one would talk to you is because there wasn't a final decision till recently. She is not required to talk to you and that is her right. She was overwhelmed when coming into this job and the work load never stopped. As a res life staff, we work together, we are like family, so when you talk about Honey, it's like you're also saying something bad about everyone else. Honey was trying to make changes that would help out in the long run,

Yes she was only here for a short period of time, but she was trying her best. Personally I feel that Honey was a kind person and was more than qualified for the job. She always would talk to me about what the next awesome program that RA's could put on to get the student more involved. She was about was the students. No one could have fixed the preexisting issues that were going on in res life. As of today, we are still short staff member and I think that if she had a full staff, she wouldn't have been so overwhelmed and things would be different.

As for what should be in the paper, I feel that more present issues should be posted. For example, the presidential debate is a huge topic going on that has caught students attentions. Why was that not on

the front page? It's a hot topic that students are interested in. There are so many activities that are going on campus that aren't even addressed. For example, the Masquerade ball is tomorrow and all I have seen is flyers about it. No one knows what its about and its a way of advertisement. Even more articles about the best movies out in theaters or community service projects that are going on. It's breast cancer month and the school is doing a walk. Community service is a way to bring the school together and help others. Not to mention, being a part of the bowling team, we were recognized by the NCAA for being in the top 10 for academics in all sports. Why is that not in the paper? Is that not successful enough to be posted?

I do enjoy the articles that are involved with the sports and community service. The article that Laura wrote about being more than an athlete was touching. Also, Sara's article about the boys golf team winning their match. This is what should be in the newspaper, not pessimistic articles.

I feel that this paper would push away any prospective students that are interested. This would just make our image as a school worse. Not to mention, we just became a university and many changes are occurring. Patience is a virtue and I think that's a motto that the paper should live by.

Sincerely,
Samantha Buzelle

SPORTS

NOT TODAY MARIST

By LAURA REINHART
Sports Editor '14

The women's soccer team entered their senior night game with a 1-15 record, with zero wins in their conference. Before the game started three seniors, Jamie Lisanti, Caitlin Hoffer, and Chloe Zmolek, were honored for their contributions to the program. Goalie Caitlin Hoffer described playing in her last home game when she said, "It was a very surreal feeling to be playing in my senior game. I couldn't believe how fast the last three seasons had gone leading up to this season and my final home game as a Peacock."

Marist, the defending MAAC champions, entered the game with a 12-5 record and with an intimidating 6-0 record in the MAAC. The Peacocks beat Marist in double overtime with a score of 2-1. Looking at the end result, the Lady

Peacocks clearly looked past the perceptions and stepped up to the challenge. As it was the three seniors last home game, they had something greater worth fighting for.

The first half of the game was scoreless from both sides. Five minutes into the second half however, Rycke Guiney of Marist scored off of a pass from teammate Alysa Murphy. The Peacocks responded to this pressure by netting a goal in the 66th minute. Junior Emily Fenice assisted senior Chloe Zmolek on her third goal of the season to tie up this match. Within the first two halves the Peacocks were outshot 25-9 but held their ground enough to force overtime.

The first overtime consisted of Marist having possession of the ball but more importantly of some great defense from defender Maddie Gregory and goalie Caitlin Hoffer. Gregory blocked a shot that could have ended the game within three

minutes of overtime. Hoffer blocked the save attempt from that same shot to force double overtime.

With only forty nine seconds left in the second overtime, Hoffer punted to Emily Fenice who would take the ball up the field and score from 18 yards out, effectively ending the game.

The importance of this win will have lasting effects on the seniors, the team that is left for next year, as well as the overall program.

"I think this win will have a positive effect on the team because I feel that it will give us the confidence we have been needing. As for the program, this is the first time in a long time that we have beat Marist so it can not be anything except good for the program," Hoffer explained.

She also added, "This game was different because it was the last time that this exact team would be stepping on our



PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO RUBIN PAVINI

field for a game. We knew we had to make it a memorable one. This game meant a lot to everyone on the team, not just the seniors."

This was in fact the first time since 2004 that the Peacocks beat the Red Foxes. Caitlin Hoffer was named MAAC Defensive Player of the Week after knotching a career high 17 saves against Marist. Her performance puts her in the NCAA top ten individual game high saves for the season. Hoffer also had

12 saves against Siena in the same week.

When asked what advice she would like to leave her teammates she responded, "My advice to the girls would be to always stick together and never give up because anything can happen at any given time."

The Saint Peter's women's soccer team has clearly exemplified these words and hopes to use this victory to keep moving forward in the time ahead.

MEET THE ATHLETE

VALERIJS LEBEDEVS

By FRANCESCA RIZZO
Contributing Writer '14

1. What made you decide to become a swimmer?

In elementary school swimming was mandatory for all students, starting from the first grade through third grade. Everyone had to go to a swimming pool. After that they asked whoever wanted to continue, especially kids who were good at it. I wasn't an outstanding swimmer at that point but I just liked it. So, I

decided to continue, at least I think so. To be honest it was probably my parent's decision.

2. Who has been your biggest role model throughout your athletic career?

My biggest role model throughout my athletic career was my brother Maksims. He's six years older than me. All my life I was looking up to him. He didn't become an athlete but he's just an unbelievably great person. I'm amazed what he has done and I don't think anyone can do something

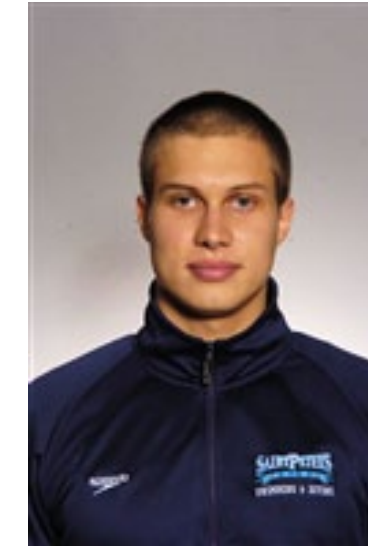


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPU ATHLETICS

similar to that. He's the most important person in my life.

3. As a senior, what are some of your expectations for your team this year?

This year we have the strongest team and the greatest coaching staff Saint Peter's has ever had. I expect from my team to win all swim meets through the whole year and then surprise all teams at MAACs.

4. Do you have any pre-swim meet rituals? If so, what are they?

Before I leave my house I

sit quiet for a minute. Also, I just listen to music. The same playlist I listen to when I go to practices. Music reminds me just how tough the season was, i.e. every 6am practice I went to.

5. If you could describe your team in 3 words, what words would you use and why?

I will say just use one word - family. We are just one big family. Despite all of us being so different, we are so close to each other.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Great moments... are born from great opportunity. And that's what you have here, tonight, boys. That's what you've earned here tonight. One game. If we played 'em ten times, they might win nine. But not this game. Not tonight."

-Miracle

5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE RLC, BUT SHOULD.

By LAURA REINHART
Sports Editor '14

Many students know that the basketball or volleyball games are held in the Victor Yanitelli Recreational Life Facility. Most students on campus also know that the RLC is the place to find a treadmill or lift some weights. However, many students both residents and commuters do not know the wide variety of activities and opportunities that the RLC and Recreational Life staff provides. We asked Dave Bryngil, the Director of the Recreational Life Center as well

as a Saint Peter's University '91 Alumni, the five things he thinks all students should know about the RLC...but probably don't.

1. The RLC is home to a brand new spin bike studio, built during the summer of 2012. The room houses 13 Matrix brand "Livestrong" spin bikes. Spin classes are offered six days per week (Monday - Saturday) often with multiple classes per day. Classes are offered free of charge to all members of the Saint Peter's community.

2. Besides free spin classes, the RLC also offers a full slate of other fitness classes that are available free of charge to the

members of the Saint Peter's community. These classes include cardio kickboxing, body toning Zumba fitness, ultimate fitness, and yoga. Fitness classes are held every weekday during the academic year.

3. Many students don't realize that the balcony above the RLC pool is home to several activities areas. A racquetball court, indoor golf practice facility, and a boxing station (including a heavy bag and a speed bag) are all located on the pool balcony.

4. When students graduate from Saint Peter's they can remain connected to their alma

mater by joining the Rec Center as alumni members. An alumni membership only costs \$225 per year and grants graduates of Saint Peter's access to all the fine facilities and many of the programs offered at the RLC.

5. While many people just see the RLC as a building it is actually operated by the Department of Recreation and RLC. This department is responsible for meeting the diverse recreational needs of the Saint Peter's community. Besides managing the RLC, the recreation departmentb oversees all intramural sports, aquatics, and fitness programs



that are offered at the university. Recreation and Athletics are two distinctly separate departments on campus, both housed in the RLC.



PICTURED ABOVE - SEXUAL HEALTH PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE AT SAINT PETER'S, INTERSPERSED WITH RELIGIOUS MAGAZINES.