

The Archway

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Bryant IDEA ramps up for another design thinking challenge in 2019

Samantha Mazza & Thobani Nxumalo
Contributing Writers

Design thinking- a human centered approach to problem solving that utilizes empathy to create long-lasting change in human behavior. Design thinking has become a trending topic in the lines of modern-day innovation.

Companies have increasingly used design thinking to radically transform the way they think about creating products and services. With the end-user's needs, wants and motivations in mind, designers create more impactful solutions. Design thinking can be tailored to work in any industry. Airbnb, Nike, Starbucks and many more uses human-centered design thinking to revolutionize their respective industries. Design thinking can be used to solve the root cause of problems faced by people every day, for example: Design Firm IDEO paired with a team of research to develop ways synthetic biology can be used to affect everyday lives, such as using a cup made of organic material that produces a probiotic drink when filled and then decomposes after a few uses. With design thinking we can use outside-of-the-box thinking to create innovative solutions to common problems. On the other hand, traditional problem-solving leads practical solutions. For this reason, design thinking may be difficult for some to adopt at first however, by endorsing the process you will find that it will change the way you view the world.

This January, the Bryant University Class of 2022 will have the opportunity to learn this extremely valuable skillset in IDEA: Innovation and Design Experience for All. IDEA is one of Bryant's signature programs, allowing all students to experience and apply the design thinking process by developing creative solutions to a "real world" problem in an intensive and exciting three-day course. IDEA 2019 will kick off on Monday, January 21 and run through Wednesday, January 23.

Through the IDEA program, students will have the ability to work on problems which allow them to step out of the box with their ideas to answer "How might we" questions. Previous design challenges include, "How might we help bookstores survive in the current economy?" Other

questions could be, "How might we enhance the fan experience at the Patriots Hall of Fame?" All the questions asked will allow for students to implement the design thinking skills which they have learned in the three days to create a solution unlike no other.

The mentors chosen for IDEA are excited to get to know the members of their cohort. Mentors will be immersed with design thinking challenges during their training in order to be exceptionally knowledgeable leaders of their cohort. Each mentor is ecstatic to meet their cohort and make the best experience possible for their members. The two student mentors on the leadership team are Samantha Mazza and Toby Nxumalo. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to them.

More information will be distributed to first-year students through the IDEA Blackboard site. The program itself kicks off at 9:00am on Monday morning, January 21st, and students can look forward to three days of an experience like no other! For up to date information and information about mentors, please follow the IDEA program on Instagram @Bryant idea and @Bryant IDEA on twitter. GO BULLDOGS!



Members of last year's IDEA mentor team (Samantha Mazza)

George H.W. Bush dies at 94

Matthew Carvalho
Staff Writer

On November 30th, 2018, the United States lost one of their most beloved leaders, George Herbert Walker Bush. He died at the age of ninety-four in Houston, Texas, and suffered from vascular parkinsonism.

Bush came from what was already a political family, with his father, Prescott Bush, being a US Senator. He served as a US Representative, a US Ambassador to the United Nations, the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, the Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office to the People's Republic of China, the director of the CIA, the US Vice-President, and the President of the United States of America.

Like the president, many historical events occurred during his term. The Cold War ended as the Soviet Union collapsed, and the countries relationship with China worsened because a student protest in Beijing was suppressed. Panamanian dictator, Manuel Noriega, was overthrown by American troops, and the country led an international effort to victory against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. He desired regional diplomatic solutions and he wanted a greater role for the United Nations. Throughout his term, both chambers of Congress were held by the Democrats, which made agreeing on many domestic issues extremely difficult. Although things were difficult with Congress, he was able to get them to pass two important pieces of legislation which were the Disabilities Act, which reduced legal and physical obstacles that negatively affected the lives of those with disabilities, and the Clean Air Act, which, for the first time in twelve years, created even

more strict air pollution standards.

However, the United States economy was growing since 1983 and it ceased in 1991. On July 1st, 1992, the Bush administration made the announcement that the national unemployment level hit 7.8 percent, which was the highest level it had hit in the last eight years. Unemployment was not able to be reduced even with the economy's recovery in late 1992 and with the president signing NAFTA. Bush needed to reduce the deficit in the budget and increase military spending in the Persian Gulf, so he worked with Congress on the budget and did raise taxes. This was a brutal hit to his presidency due to the fact in his famous 1988 speech when he was running for president when he said, "Read my lips: no new taxes". In Bush's bid for reelection, he went on to lose to Arkansas Governor, Bill Clinton, in the general election.

Even after his defeat, Bush would continue to be vocal about politics and still have an influence. Some of children and grandchildren entered politics, most notably George and Jeb, with the former being the Forty-third United States President. While his son served as president, Bush worked with him as an advisor and helped him with issues like Iraq in 2002. The president would even go on to give a commencement speech in 2008 to the graduating class of Bryant University when he said, "Seeing all of you ... only reaffirms my optimism in my country's future".

George H.W. Bush was a president who cared about his country and served it well, and due to that, the country mourns his death and remembers the man who once led it.

Meet The Archway Staff

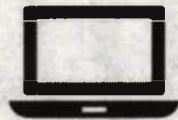
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Department of Public Safety Log

(MVA) MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT Nov 12, 2018-Monday at 15:47
Location: RESERVE PARKING LOT E FACULTY/STAFF
Summary: DPS received a report from a Bryant staff member reporting that she had hit a parked car.

FIRE ALARM Nov 17, 2018-Saturday at 11:58
Location: TOWNHOUSE
Summary: DPS received a fire alarm caused by smoking in a room. DPS officers also found a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia that was confiscated and destroyed.

EMT CALL EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED Nov 18, 2018-Sunday at 01:49
Location: Warren House
Summary: DPS received a request for a wellbeing check on an intoxicated student. EMS

was activated. Patient was transported by the Smithfield Rescue to Fatima Hospital for treatment.

EMT CALL EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED Nov 18, 2018-Sunday at 03:08
Location: TOWNHOUSE
Summary: A parent called DPS to request a wellbeing check on her daughter. EMS was activated. Smithfield Rescue responded, no transport needed.

FIRE ALARM Nov 18, 2018-Sunday at 04:20
Location: Warren House
Summary: DPS received a fire alarm in Warren House (14) - 2nd floor lobby. Smithfield Fire responded. Alarm was caused by burning popcorn in the microwave.

Trump, others, sign USMCA

David Schmidt
News Copy Editor

All three heads of state signed the USMCA on November 30th in Buenos Aires, Mexico. However, after signing the deal there was a photo-op and both Trump and Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto held their signed copies of the deal, but Canadian Prime Minister "Trudeau opted not to follow his peers in holding up his binder to celebrate — a sign, perhaps, of the lingering effects of the contentious process that was triggered when Trump imposed tariffs on Mexico and Canada earlier this year, which remain in place" states NPR. This however is not surprising due to Canadian officials stated that they felt celebrating the agreement and all was unnecessary due to the U.S. attempts to twist Canada's arm with the tariffs that Trump had warned Trudeau about if Canada failed to incorporate themselves in the new trade pact, which will most likely replace the current trade pact NAFTA. Yet, both US President Trump and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto felt differently about the celebration of the deal due to the symbolization of the deal as a triumph that aids in cementing both of their legacies.

During the signing ceremony, President Trump was quoted to have said that "This has been a battle, and battles sometimes make great friendships". Yet the deal itself only really had one significant alteration which was that within the automobile industry there is now a "higher requirements on North American content, and in particular high-wage content, for vehicles to trade duty-free" states NPR. However, the

deal ultimately came from in many ways' persuasion due to the tariffs on steel and aluminum products from both Canada and Mexico, which the Trump Administration had placed on them earlier in the month of October.

During the remarks portion of the signing of the USMCA, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau had stated, that the new agreement, which he calls the new NAFTA ultimately "lifts the risk of serious economic uncertainty that lingers throughout a trade renegotiation process — uncertainty that would have only gotten worse and more damaging if we had not reached a new NAFTA." Mexican President then made his remarks on the deal stating that the deal is the first of its kind to integrate elements that address the social influence of international trade. Also, President Enrique Peña Nieto stated that the new trade pact USMCA ultimately includes topics that were not included in the original regional trade agreement between the three, which were protections for workers' rights and the environment, and elements that pursue to spread the reimbursements of free trade. Furthermore, President Enrique Peña Nieto prior to the signing of the USMCA presented both Trump and Trudeau with Mexico's highest honors for foreigners, which is the Aztec Eagle this bestowment surprised many.

Moreover, the signing ceremony for the USMCA came on the backdrop of the G-20 Summit that is to be held on Nov 30, 2018 – Dec 1, 2018, to find a resolution to a trade dispute between America, Mexico, and Canada. Now all three agreements go to the three countries legislatures to be ratified and official.

Antisemitism rises in Argentina, elsewhere

Michael Rosenthal
Contributing Writer

The events that took place in Argentina this past week are just one of a string of events that have sparked an unprecedented amount of antisemitism across not only the United States but now the world. This latest act of antisemitism took place at a soccer match between two professional clubs, Atlanta and the All Boys, two local teams. The two teams are rivals and after Atlanta pulled ahead to win the match many of the All Boy fans reacted in an inappropriate manner for fans of the sport of soccer. The fans did the traditional booing and showed their disdain when their team lost but also continued to stoop to a new level of evil. They decided to target several players and members of the Atlanta soccer team. According to the Jerusalem Post, the Atlanta soccer team has been historically associated with the Jewish community. Therefore, the All Boys' fans intent was to be derogatory and prejudiced toward the team due to their Jewish affiliation. Words were exchanged such as the All Boys fans chanting "Ahí Viene el Albo for el callejón, matando judíos para Hacer jabón", which translates in English to "Here comes Albo down the alley, killing Jews to make soap." The fans in addition to chanting antisemitic comments also waved Palestinian flags and t-shirts bearing Iranian symbols as well as rioted after the game with opposing fans. They also assaulted police officers and vandalized stadium property. Some spectators even sought refuge in the locker rooms to avoid the All Boys fans that were rioting.

This recent event is unsettling to many not only belonging to the Jewish community in the United States but also to the general public. Many people throughout the United States will remember what is now known as the deadliest attack targeting the Jewish

community on American soil. This tragic event referenced is the mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue that occurred on October 27, 2018. This mass shooting was carried out by a lone gunman who used several weapons including semiautomatic weapons and handguns. This tragic and senseless act left 11 victims murdered in cold blood and their families left in shambles.

Another recent event with effects still rocking the Jewish community is the disturbing actions of a man attending a play at the Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore, Maryland this month. This audience member shouted "Heil Hitler, Heil Trump" while simultaneously doing a Nazi salute, which alarmed many theatergoers as well as members of Baltimore's Jewish community. This incident took place during intermission of the play, Fiddler on the Roof, which is about a Russian, Jewish family escaping oppression in Tsarist Russia, according to the Baltimore Sun.

These three incidents, although isolated, are connected to a common trend currently occurring in our society. The effects of each incident are lingering and will continue until some repercussions are doled out to perpetrators and those with similar beliefs and behaviors. This hateful and unfortunate event at the soccer game is abnormal but not unexpected due to the climate of how society as a whole has begun to ostracize the Jewish community more and more. This past year alone, the Jewish community has been increasingly under attack from the bomb threats of Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) to the recent events aforementioned in this article. Society needs to come together and find a solution to end this hatred toward the Jewish community. If they do not, then there will most likely be an increase in antisemitic behaviors and the number of hate crimes in the United States as well.

Tweets of the week

"Could somebody please explain to the Democrats (we need their votes) that our Country losses 250 Billion Dollars a year on illegal immigration, not including the terrible drug flow. Top Border Security, including a Wall, is \$25 Billion. Pays for itself in two months. Get it done!"

- Donald Trump, 12/04/18 (@RealDonaldTrump)

"George H.W. Bush will be missed and long remembered for his leadership, his decency & his essential kindness. Served his country in so many ways. Made public service about country, and America's responsibility in the world, less about party. Our thoughts are with the Bush family."

-Beto O'Rourke, 11/30/18 (@BetoORourke)

California resident shot eight times helping neighbors

Ronald Vitarelli
Contributing Writer

On November 14, 2018, tragedy struck when a man was shot eight times. Patrick Smith was a 41-year old man living in Barstow, California. Smith spent eight days in the hospital attempting to recover from his injuries but sadly passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

On Wednesday, November 14, the Barstow police received a phone call about a burglary in a neighborhood. The caller told the 911 operators that their neighbor's home was currently being broken into and that they could see flashlights inside the home. When the Barstow Police Department arrived at the scene, they saw two teenage boys. They chased them to the backyard of the home and ended up losing sight of them. As they were trying to regain sight of them, they heard multiple gunshots at a different home nearby. The police followed the firearm noises and eventually found Smith suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Smith was flown to the nearby hospital. Four teenage boys were arrested at the scene. They were aged from fifteen-years-old to seventeen-years-old. The gunman is being tried for attempted murder.

Smith was just trying to help his neighbors out and stop the burglars. When he ventured to the backyard to go check his neighbor's home, the teenagers confronted Patrick and shot him. A GoFundMe page was set up to get Patrick back up on his feet after this attempted murder. The page raised over \$42,000. His wife, Elizabeth Smith, told news channel KTLA that he was suffering from "eight gunshot wounds, a broken thumb/wrist, fractured jaw, split tongue, missing teeth, two collapsed lungs, and almost completely devoid of blood." Elizabeth told CNN that she feared she would not ever get a chance to say goodbye to

her husband Patrick Smith underwent multiple surgeries and was able to stay alive, until Thanksgiving day.

On November 22, Patrick and Elizabeth were watching their favorite show, American Horror Story, together. Elizabeth recalls that they "were nerds together". Suddenly, Patrick's condition started to worsen. He began vomiting. He was rushed to the intensive care unit for rounds of CPR, which he sadly did not survive. His cause of death is still unknown.

One of Patrick's "greatest things" that happened in the hospital was watching the Steelers-Jaguars game on Sunday, November 18. Elizabeth knew how much this would mean to Patrick. Elizabeth downloaded the game on her laptop and invited all of their family to come over to watch it with them. Patrick told Elizabeth that he was "really looking forward to watching the Steelers-Broncos game on Sunday".

Patrick worked as a facilities maintenance manager in his town. Elizabeth said that her husband "was the type of guy to always lend a helping hand". The couple was together for ten years and married for seven. Elizabeth and Patrick's mother-in-law, Dibble, described him as a "gentle giant". Dibble also said that the family "relied on Patrick to be our savior, he was the person who protected us". Patrick leaves behind his wife and his five-year-old son, Dillinger. Elizabeth said that her son knows that his father is in "heaven and is an angel now".

Campus anti-hate vigil presents Bryant with insightful rhetoric

Elana Williams-Leonard
Copy Editor

On Saturday, October 27th, 2018, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania experienced what is being referred to as the deadliest attack of Jewish people on American soil. According to the New York Times, an armed man by the name of Kevin Bowers entered into the place of worship with an AR-15-style assault rifle and three handguns, taking the lives of 11 congregants and injuring 6 others.

It has since been concluded that this act of violence was a hate crime. Bowers was said to have been screaming anti-Semitic phrases such as "All Jews must die" during this brutal attack on the synagogue. He was charged with 29 criminal accounts and has been taken into police custody for further processing.

As we begin to grapple with this event as a country, it is important to note what the New York Times refers to as a recent "surge in hate-related speech and crimes across America." This time period has proven to be one of the most fatal in regards to marginalized groups being targeted by in hate-related acts of violence. Many have begun to connect this hate to the increasingly malicious nature of political rhetoric.

Due to the impact that this event has had on people across the nation, Bryant University held an Anti-Hate Remembrance Vigil in the Interfaith Center on October 30th, 2018. The vigil was created by the PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion, along with the Campus Ministry and the Interfaith Center, meant to bring community members together through fighting hatred, seeking consolation, and finding comfort in community. The event gave students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to grieve for the innocent lives lost and begin an open discourse regarding the importance of combating hateful rhetoric and crimes attributed to hate.

Rabbi Steven Jablow, a highly regarded lecturer on campus, spoke at the remembrance vigil in attempts to bring hope to a seemingly hopeless period in time. His message was well received – stressing the importance of connectivity and acceptance to combat the increasing prevalence of violent and hate-filled acts within our country. His message speaks volumes to those who are trying to find light in the midst of incontrovertible darkness.

His opening message is below:

"Coming together today is an act of significant meaning. To varying degrees, we are all sharing the same feelings. We are hurt. We are shocked and shaken. We feel actual fear. For our children, for ourselves, for our country, our values, for our very safety, even for our future. We can no longer say, "it can't happen here", or dismiss our concern by saying "it will not continue to get worse". We are struggling to come to grips with 72 hours in America that have forced us to face so very much hatred, anger, pain, and loss.

"In the course of several days we have seen events that have changed us, and perhaps our view and expectation of a peaceful life in our country. For quite a while we have seen the line shift in public discourse, we have seen lower and more

crass behavior in the world of the internet, and we have repeatedly thought that perhaps this is as bad as it will get. We are here together today to reckon with the pain of our realization that it can get worse, and that, in fact, it has.

"Last week outside of Louisville, Kentucky, an armed white man unsuccessfully sought entry into the church of a predominantly Black congregation. Finding the doors locked, he went to a local supermarket where he executed Maurice Stallard, an African-American man inside. Walking outside, he is reported to have said to a white man he passed that "whites don't kill whites" just before he shot and killed Vickie Jones.

"Next we faced the shocking mailing of a dozen pipe bombs to prominent politically involved individuals. Not debate, not discussions, not disagreement and discourse. Twelve bombs that could kill and maim who knows how many people. Here in the United States it sounds like a story we might hear about a dictatorial country across the world, not here in our home.

"This past Saturday morning at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, while three different Jewish congregations celebrated the Sabbath, and during the Brit Milah, the naming and circumcision ceremony of an 8-day old Jewish boy, hatred and violence have once again shattered our fragile sense of peace and comfort. The killer told an officer "that he wanted all Jews to die, and also "that the Jews were committing genocide to his people". Like Maurice Stallard and Vickie Jones in Kentucky, I would like us to share the names of those killed. Let their names allow them not to simply be statistics, but the innocent individuals who were gathered in communal joy and celebration. Victims ranging from their 50's, to 97-year-old, Rose Mallinger, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger, Jerry Rabinowitz, inseparable brothers Cecil and David Rosenthal, Daniel Stein, Joyce Feinberg, Richard Gottfried, and Bernice and Sylvan Simon, a husband and wife who died together Saturday morning in the same synagogue in which they were married 60 years earlier.

"But we are here. We face darkness and despair, and we will not give up. We are here to give comfort, and to take strength. We have come together in community, to find solace and strength from our peers, and to offer it as well. When we embrace one another, we are both giving and receiving love, kindness, comfort and vigor. We seek the security of companionship in the face of loss. We embrace others who share our grief and pain, and we seek the strength to carry on. We look for support so that we can hold on to our values in the face of cruelty. The Talmud says, "one who acts in love is greater than one who acts in fear". We gather in fellowship today to strengthen our actions based on love, even in the face of fear.

"In memory of those recent victims of hate whose names we have just shared, I will now share the traditional Hebrew memorial prayer. I invite you to either follow along in the English transliteration or to read the English translation, both of which can be found on the back of your printed program."

He then went on to say a prayer for those whose lives were lost in the brutal attack. He once again began to speak.

"I mentioned earlier that we may

actually have been changed by the experience of those recent 72 hours. I've come to hope that is, in fact, true. For if we do not change, we will not be able to affect change. Look around this room and take strength from each other. Look around this campus and realize the potential that we all have to create change. Our peaceful sheltered campus has so far been somewhat of an oasis in a troubled world. But we can do more. We can teach our Bryant community to go out and influence the world.

"We can no longer afford to sit quietly in the face of hatred. The hatred and violence is worse, and we have the data to prove it. The Anti-Defamation League has kept records of anti-Semitic occurrences and hate crimes in the United States for decades. From 2005 until 2015, there was a continuous decrease in anti-Jewish actions nationwide. In 2016, there was a 32% increase. In 2017, anti-Semitic acts in this country went up 58%, the largest increase ever seen. So far in 2018, in New York City alone, the level remains as high as 2017. Last year, neo-Nazis marched in the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia chanting "Jews will not replace us", and a year later, three days ago, we have seen the deadliest attack on Jews in the history of the United States.

"Hateful anti-Muslim actions in this country are at the highest levels seen, the shooting deaths in Kentucky are not an aberration, but a growing normal of anti-Black American violence, and actions against the LGBTQ community continue to rise.

"We must respond so that the hate-filled voices, which are still the fringes in our society, do not grow unchecked due to silence. At this point of real life-threatening danger, silence is complicity. We must not remain silent even if we are not members of a specific target group of the hatred and the haters. The famous words of Pastor Martin Niemoller in Germany during the Nazi regime teach us that. He is best remembered for the quotation: 'First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.'

"Today those voices of hate are the loudest we hear at times, but they are not the majority. Look around this room, feel the aching desire for things to improve, and take heart. I believe we will look back at this time in our history as a turning point. We are here at this vigil today because we believe in love, in diversity, in pluralism, in valuing what others can offer and share.

"I look around this beautiful sanctuary and I do feel hopeful. Yes, I know it's sort of in my job description to feel that way, but I would not feel that way if this vigil was unattended. All of us here spend a tremendous amount of our time as part of this unique academic community. Let us take advantage fearlessly of the opportunity that presents to us. To teach, formally, and informally. To program with goals of creating meaningful and sincere interactions. To change the world, one conversation at a time. Teach yourself so that you can educate others, be they your colleagues, your students, your family, or your friends.

"Take your printed programs from this vigil with you. Use the Pyramid of Hate

on the second page of your program as a resource. Test yourself first. Have you been silent in the face of ethnic jokes? Have you let racial slurs go unchallenged? Are you guilty yourself of one of the steps? Are you ready to use the pyramid to engage in conversation with others? When we do not protest, we are guilty of aiding in the normalization of bigotry and hatred.

"Deborah Lipstadt, scholar and professor of Holocaust studies at Emory University observes that we may never change the minds of people who mail pipe bombs or enter a sanctuary with guns blazing, but we can stop them from influencing others. This year, at Thanksgiving dinner, when your nasty uncle or obnoxious cousin starts sounding off in their annual complaints, ranting about Jews, Blacks, Muslims, and LGBTQ members who are ruining this country, do not sit idly by. Challenge them. Do so, not to change their minds, but to reach others, especially those at the table who could be influenced, those who are listening and watching and learning. Silence is complicity, and an aide to the haters.

"We must consciously fight becoming jaded and hopeless. When we hear so regularly about another shooting, another hate crime, another screaming hurtful, hateful online posting, we risk becoming accustomed to such behaviors, and then we are one step further up the pyramid of hate. We risk losing what we have created in this country, a society that was designed to peacefully, and through debate and rational reasoning, arrive at the means to move forward and to function on behalf of all members.

"We know what is right. It's why we are here seeking solace in the face of that, which is so wrong. Let us gain strength from this gathering and take it with us to our circles of involvement. To our friends, to our meditation groups, our book clubs, our dormitories, our churches, synagogues, temples and mosques, to wherever we interact with those who may listen. We are afraid perhaps, partly because we didn't know we would live in a time during which we would have to fight to keep love stronger than hate. As people who seek the good in life, we have always fought this battle in favor of love, understanding and kindness. The hatred we battle may be louder now than we remember it, but it can be silenced, it can be overcome.

"We only have to look at each other to know that. We can cry together and be comforted, we can embrace one another and gain strength. We can share in this burden of our times and fight to repair the world. Go in peace, and go with hope, for our desire to curb hatred is strong, our love is powerful; the more we share it, the greater it grows. Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazayk; May we all go from strength to strength."

Although we are in an interesting place in time, it is important to remember that, as Rabbi Jablow remarked, "[t]he hatred we battle may be louder now than we remember it, but it can be silenced, it can be overcome." The attacks on the synagogue remind us that in order to stop violence like this from occurring, we must understand the root of hate speech and its increased frequency in light of today's political rhetoric.

Interested in news? Like to write? Send in a business article and get published! Send articles to archway@bryant.edu

A new way to store kinetic energy

Jonathan Saker
Contributing Writer

We currently have a technological problem with wind and solar power generation. Basically, what the problem is sometimes the wind is blowing when we don't need electricity and sometimes, we need electricity when the wind isn't blowing. We do have a solution for that problem and it's called grid storage and it is the ability to store electricity when it's available, but when nobody needs the energy, we can use it later.

Right now, we have enough grid storage for wind and solar that we have installed but if we want to make more use of wind and solar and we do then we need more grid storage and we need to find a new way of storing it.

There probably won't be a single tech that will solve this problem, but it will be a multiple of new innovations working together. Now there is this company called Teraloop, and they have a very interesting way to store energy on the grid by spinning a heavy object fast.

Teraloop developed a kinetic energy storage system through an innovative fusion of electromagnetic technologies, each already proven in its existing application. Electrical energy is converted to stored kinetic energy, then harvested to be used when needed.

What they're doing to store clean energy to the grid, isn't a new concept, but it is a very interesting way in doing using Electromagnetic Stabilization, which helps on maximizing the "energy per unit mass" of the system to make efficient use of material resources while minimizing the on-site storage.

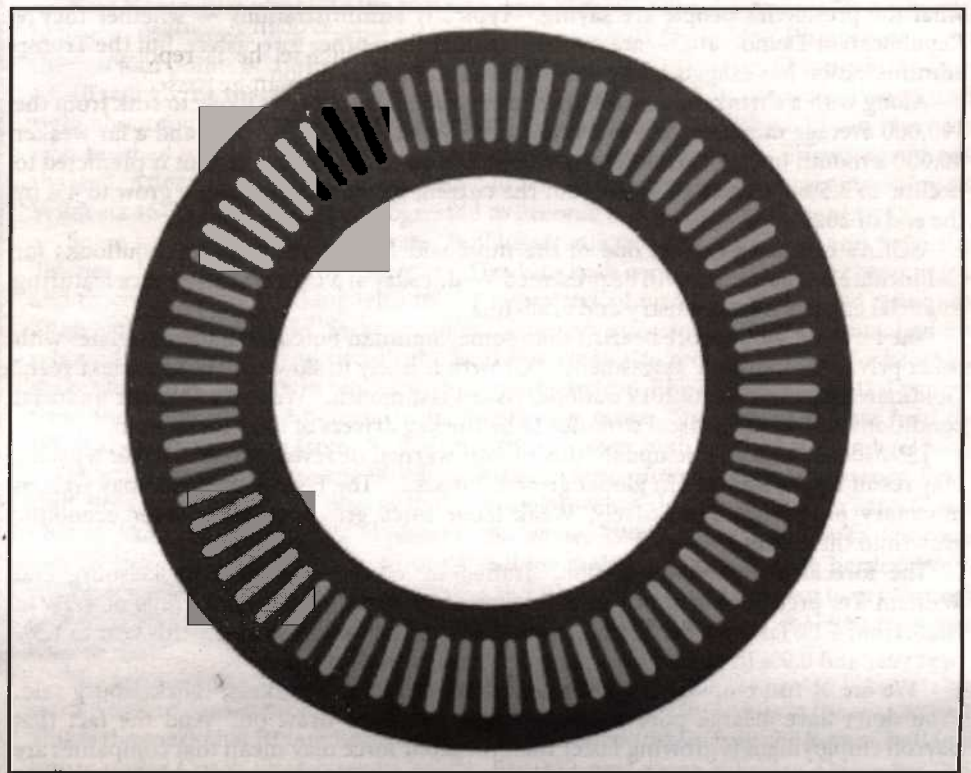
They also use Permanent Magnet Synchronous technology which is used to maximize both power-density and round-trip efficiency, while minimizing the size of ancillary equipment and they optimize their system for passive levitation, which is a fail-safe electrodynamic magnetic levitation system which provides extraordinary efficient operations.

And through reported claims from International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), state that the cost of renewable energy is falling so fast that it will be cheaper than fossil fuels by 2020.

Companies like Tera Loop are making advances in scaling more grid storage. This staging system they have made as a prototype is a future alternative to batteries. This way of storage can meet the needs of mass populations, provide a zero-waste solution while using Earth's natural solution. It is meant to preserve the World's resources for future generations.

This company Teraloop is in a competition called the New Energy Challenge, which looks to reward companies that are innovative in the energy market to help reduce carbon emissions and be more efficient doing it.

With companies like Teraloop and their innovations, the IRENA says since 2013 more than \$1 trillion has been invested in renewable around the world and this industry provides nearly 10 million jobs around the world. With more and more companies enter the New Energy Challenge we will see more innovations in using cleaning that will complement with what Teraloop is doing.



Teraloop's logo (Teraloop)

Juul: the past year and the future

Bob Smith
Contributing Writer

Juul has become an extremely well-known trend recently especially among young adults. Concerns have been raised about the negative effects of smoking a Juul as it contains high levels of nicotine that have addictive qualities. In an attempt to curb teenage juuling, the FDA banned convenience stores and gas stations from selling flavors such as mango and nectar.

Fruity flavors are considered to be more attractive and kid-friendly. This flavor ban is a step in the right direction but young adults will still find other ways to get fruity flavors. Flavored products will still be sold in vape shops and online stores. The online stores do have strict age verification measures. The FDA's bans on Juul flavors is predicted to have negative effects on the Juul business.

One of the reasons that Juul is popular is due to its flavors. Consumers are attracted to the flavors offered by Juul as they are an alternative to regular vaping and cigarettes. Juul has controlled the majority of the e-cigarette market. These bans on Juul pods could be a good thing for other e-cigarette and vape companies as Juul most likely will take a hit.

Tobacco companies that manufacture their own vape will benefit as well and it is likely that tobacco stocks will see an increase in trading. As Juul continues to dominate the e-cigarette market and grows in popularity, it is reached a \$15 billion valuation.

Interestingly enough, Juul was created by a Stanford graduate student as a part of their thesis. In 2007, two Stanford students wanted to create an e-cigarette that would satisfy consumers in similar ways to a cigarette. Their inspiration was the fact that both were avid smokers looking to create an attractive substitute for cigarettes.

Juul labs generated \$224 million in retail sales over the past year. The retail price for a Juul is \$35 and a four pack of Juul pods cost \$16. The Juul brand sales blew up 621% year-over-year according to Nielsen data.

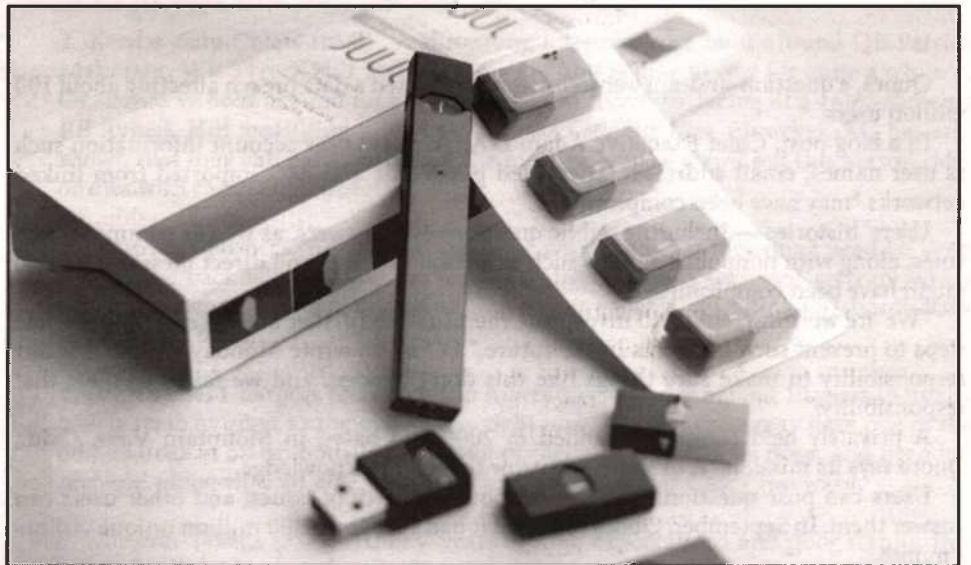
Juul has sold over one million systems and it is available at 12,000 convenience stores across the United States. These two graduate students were able to create a differentiated product and grow its brand name across the United States in a considerably short amount of time.

The Juul launched in 2015 in a USB drive shape and looks completely different than all other e-cigarettes. Most devices have a cap that needs to be unscrewed and the chamber inside will be filled with liquid.

The creation of Juul is a prime example of how assessing consumer needs before the consumer can recognize the need. The two Stanford students successfully created a quality substitute to smoking that was completely different than existing e-cigarettes available today.

This highlights the importance of differentiation in business whether it is a product or service. It is necessary to add value through offering a new product or an existing product in a different way.

It will be interesting to see how the Juul company continues to adjust to the heightening concerns about its health effects. If Juul is able to continue to adapt its product it will most likely continue to be successful.



Juul had to put advertisements to curb underage use (Juul)

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UCLA economists predict the U.S. economy will downshift in 2019 and 2020

Margot Roosevelt
MCT Campus

The United States is "playing with fire" in launching a trade war with China and its economic growth will plummet over the next two years as the stimulus of tax cuts and spending increases wanes and interest rates rise, according to a new forecast from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

"The economy is in the process of downshifting from the 3% growth in real GDP this year to 2% in 2019 and 1% in 2020," warned senior economist David Shulman, author of the group's national forecast. And President Trump's repeated predictions that the economy will grow at 4% to 6%?

"It's not going to happen," Shulman said. "We think it is going to slow a lot more than what the president's people are saying. Typically administrations — whether they're Republican or Democratic — are more optimistic than other forecasters. But the Trump administration has exaggerated more than other administrations."

Along with a shrinking gross domestic product, job growth is likely to sink from the 190,000 average monthly gain this year to 160,000 a month next year, and a far weaker 40,000 a month in 2020, according to the UCLA outlook. Unemployment is predicted to decline to 3.5% for most of 2019, from the current 3.7%, then gradually grow to 4% by the end of 2020.

UCLA's quarterly report, one of the most widely watched economic outlooks for California and the nation, will be presented Wednesday at a campus conference featuring financial experts from industry and academia.

The forecast, while more bearish than some, Shulman noted, roughly correlates with other private economists' assessments. "Growth is likely to slow significantly next year," Goldman Sachs said in its 2019 outlook, issued last month. "We expect tighter financial conditions and a fading fiscal stimulus to be the key drivers of the deceleration."

J.P. Morgan's economic update this month warned of several risks. "Trade tensions may result in a slowdown in global growth," it said. "The Federal Reserve may tighten monetary policy too aggressively. Weak labor force growth could hinder economic growth in the future."

The forecast's California section, drafted by economists Jerry Nickelsburg and William Yu, predicts the state's unemployment rate will rise to an average of 4.5% in 2020, from 4.1% last month. Payroll growth is expected to slow from 2% this year to 1.5% next year and 0.9% in 2020.

"We are at full employment, so we are running out of workers," Nickelsburg said. "You don't have a large pool of unemployed people to draw on." And the fact that payroll employment is growing faster than the labor force may mean that companies are converting contract workers into payroll employees to retain them, he added.

California's personal income growth, adjusted for inflation, is forecast to be in the upper 3% range in 2019 and will cool to just below 3% in 2020. Home building will accelerate to about 140,000 units annually by the end of the forecast horizon in 2020, from 125,100 this year.

Shulman, a former managing director at Lehman Bros. and a former Salomon Bros. research director and equity strategist, sees "financial turbulence ahead" for Wall Street. "The recent volatility in stock prices appears to signal that the era of benign financial markets we have been used to for the past several years is coming to an end," he wrote.

The most serious risks? "Over-leveraged corporations and escalating trade tensions, especially with China," he said. "While the zero and low-interest rate policy of the Federal Reserve helped pull the economy out of the Great Recession and later stimulated growth, it induced corporations to leverage up," or take on debt.

"For example, AT&T borrowed \$190 billion to finance its acquisitions of Time Warner and DirecTV. And AT&T was far from alone, with such debt-financed acquisitions made by Bayer, Verizon Communications, Abbott Laboratories, Walgreens Boots Alliance, CVS and Broadcom."

The debt-financed buying spree "has the potential to trigger the next recession," Shulman said. "Note that the last three recessions had their origins in the financial markets."

The 1990 recession was caused by overzealous lending in commercial real estate and the overbuilding of shopping centers. In 2001, it was too much stock-market exuberance in technology and telecom shares. In 2007, it was the mortgage market. This time the issue is corporate credit.

Trump can take credit for a booming economy this year, Shulman said, "but we are going to pay for it with deficits of trillions of dollars as far as the eye can see. The stimulus of tax cuts and spending increases was overdone and its effects will wane next year. The whole economy will pay for it with higher debt service on the deficit."

On the trade front, he added, "Trade wars have a way of escalating. A tariff war means slower growth and higher prices, which is a formula for stagflation. It is not a happy picture, and it can end with inflation and recession."



Trump and Xi have serious negotiations ahead (White House Official Photo)

Quora reports data breach affecting approximately 100 million users

Jim Puzanghera
MCT Campus

Quora, a question-and-answer website, has reported a data breach affecting about 100 million users.

In a blog post, Chief Executive Adam D'Angelo said user account information such as user names, email addresses, encrypted passwords and data imported from linked networks "may have been compromised."

Users' histories — including public questions and answers, as well as comments and votes, along with nonpublic actions such as answer requests and direct messages — also might have been compromised.

"We are working rapidly to investigate the situation further and take the appropriate steps to prevent such incidents in the future," D'Angelo wrote Monday night. "It is our responsibility to make sure things like this don't happen, and we failed to meet that responsibility."

A privately held company founded in 2009 and based in Mountain View, Calif., Quora says its mission "is to share and grow the world's knowledge."

Users can pose questions on the site about a variety of issues, and other users can answer them. In September, Quora reported it had surpassed 300 million unique visitors a month.

The data breach "is nothing like" the massive one announced Friday by Marriott International Inc. but it still raises concerns, said Pam Dixon, executive director of the World Privacy Forum, a nonprofit public interest group.

The Marriott breach lasted four years and compromised the information of as many as 500 million of its hotel guests worldwide. For about 327 million, the stolen data may have included important personal information such as birth dates and passport numbers.

Dixon said that type of data made the breach much more significant than Quora's, which did not include such information.

"The main issue here is going to be phishing," Dixon said of Quora's breach. Phishing emails seek to trick a person into clicking on a link that allows the scammer to get personal information or puts malware programs on the person's computer.

The phishing potential could be significant if data that Quora imported from other networks included things like contact lists or full Facebook profiles. Quora did not specify the type of information involved.

"This is just a really great reminder for everyone that if you're going to chat on social media or any other websites, it's a great idea to have a throwaway email not connected to your work and not your primary personal email," Dixon said. "It just makes all the sense in the world to not make it your favorite email. If it's hacked, you delete it."

Quora discovered Friday that a "malicious third party" had gained unauthorized access to one of its systems. "We're very sorry for any concern or inconvenience this may cause," D'Angelo said.

The company is still investigating the incident and has "retained a leading digital forensics and security firm to assist us," he said. Quora is notifying users whose data have been compromised, logging them out of the site and invalidating their passwords.

"While the passwords were encrypted ... it is generally a best practice not to reuse the same password across multiple services, and we recommend that people change their passwords if they are doing so," D'Angelo said.

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Bryant Bulldogs outscore UNH Wildcats in second half to win

Jared Piatnik
Contributing Writer



Bryant hosting UNH (YouTube)

On Saturday, December 1st, the Bryant University Bulldogs basketball team played The University of New Hampshire Wildcats. Coming into this matchup Bryant was 1-5, while New Hampshire was 2-5.

In the beginning of the game things did not seem to be in Bryant's favor. The Bulldogs

were not shooting the ball well and fell down early 18-12. Bryant responded to this adversity by going on a 12-0 run to take the advantage 24-18. This was the only positive run Bryant saw in the first half because New Hampshire responded by ending the first half on a 21-5 run.

New Hampshire went into the half with a lot of momentum leading 39-29. Right after halftime, the momentum started to sway in the Bulldog's favor. New Hampshire scored the first four points of the first half before Bryant went on an 11-0 run. This made the score 44-40 still giving the Wildcats the lead. Bryant would keep the score within seven until right about four minutes, when a key play happened for the Bulldogs. Bryon Hawkins, who finished with a team high 20 points, drilled a three pointer so Bryant would take the lead. After this shot, Bryant continued to dominate in the second half outscoring the Wildcats 46-26, which in turn progressed to become a 75-65 win for Bryant.

Some key performances from the Bulldogs came from Adam Grant and SeBastian Townes, along with Hawkins. Grant and Hawkins both contributed with 20 points apiece and three assists each. Along with this, Townes racked up 12 points and ten rebounds. These were all team highs. Freshman Joe Kasperzyk also chipped in 14 points, had five rebounds, two assists, and two steals. Juan Cardenas also recorded three blocks which makes for the team high in blocks with 10 on the season. The Bulldogs shot 41.4 percent from the floor and 32.3 percent from three-point range. The Bryant defense held the Wildcats to 41.1 percent from the floor which is a career high for the black and gold.

Heading into this game the Bulldogs had been struggling to reach consistency. Every time Bryant would start to play well, the momentum would turn against Bryant. Coach Grasso had some comments regarding the game, "We've been fighting to get some consistency. Seeing the ball go through the net makes you play a little harder. We've really struggled shooting the ball this year, but it's something we're going to get through and start making shots. We get a lot of reps in, and we have better shooters than how they've shot."

The second half of this game gives the Bulldogs hope for the rest of the season. They started to find consistency and outscored New Hampshire by 20 points in the second half. This is the spark that Bryant needed. If they keep this consistency up the Bryant Bulldogs future under Coach Grasso seems bright. Bryant's next game is Friday, December 7th, when they head to New York City to face Columbia University. This will be a great test for the Bulldogs as Columbia is 1-5 coming into the contest.

Hunter's 2018-2019 NFL rankings

Hunter Quinn
Treasurer

14 weeks have gone by, and playoffs are right around the corner. The LA Rams are the first team to officially clinch a spot in the playoffs and with 3 weeks of the regular season left, the playoffs seem closer than ever. In an ever-competitive NFL, Vegas currently favors the Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl 53. However, my prediction is that Tom Brady and Drew Brees will lead their teams to a showdown between two of the greatest quarterbacks of all time this February. In my predictions below, I give my current rankings of the top 6 teams in each conference.

NFC:

1. New Orleans Saints (10-2) – Drew Brees is having one of the best seasons he's had in his entire career, but this is largely due to the sheer amount of weapons he has around him. Led by the best young running back and wide receiver combination in the NFL, Alvin Kamara and Michael Thomas have both had historical seasons that should only continue into playoffs. As long as the defense can defend the NFC's other top offenses, the Saints remain at the top of the rankings.

2. Los Angeles Rams (11-1) – Despite the loss to Cooper Kupp, this offense is still dynamic. Brandon Cooks and Robert Woods still make up one of the best receiving corps in the NFL and Todd Gurley is having an MVP-like season, powering the team to a 10-1 record. With very few holes on defense, Aaron Donald has lead the team defensively and once again showed us why he is worth the \$135 million contract he signed this April.

3. Chicago Bears (8-4) – 2018 is the year that Bears fans have been waiting for. 2nd year QB Mitch Trubisky has shown why Chicago traded up to get him in his time under center. With the early-season acquisition of Khalil Mack, the Bears will ride the best defense in the NFL to the playoffs for the first time in 8 years. Assuming Trubisky returns to full strength, Chicago has all the tools to compete against the best teams in the NFL.

4. Minnesota Vikings (6-5-1) – Despite an underwhelming record and a poor performance against the Patriots last week, Minnesota has a combination of one of the best offenses and defenses in the league that is capable of leading the Vikings deep into the playoffs. Along with the best safety in the league in Harrison Smith, the Viking's need to start living up to their potential before the regular season finishes.

5. Dallas Cowboys (6-6) The Cowboys have finally reclaimed the top of the NFC East. Despite a horrid start of the season by Dak Prescott, he finally showed he can be star the Cowboys hoped he would be with a dominant game against New Orleans. As long as Dallas' defense can prevent other top offenses from routing them in the playoffs, the Cowboys have a chance.

6. Seattle Seahawks (7-5) – After the departure of Richard Sherman, the long-tenured "Legion of Boom" is officially gone. Many thought this would be a rebuild season for the Seahawk but Russell Wilson has continued to defy the expectations. Like always, this season is resting on the shoulders of Wilson.

AFC:

1. New England Patriots (9-3) – As long as Bill Belichick is coaching and Tom Brady is under center, the Patriots will always be contenders. Josh Gordon has already proven himself as a receiver, showing flashes of stardom in the last 10 weeks. After a dominant game against Minnesota, New England has finally showed that it's defense is able to shut down elite offenses. In what may be Brady's final season, New England is the favorite coming out of the AFC.

2. Kansas City Chiefs (10-2) – The young offensive core built around QB Patrick Mahomes, WR Tyreek Hill and RB Kareem Hunt is here to stay for quite a while.... Or should've been around for a while. With the recent surfacing of a video showing RB Tyreek Hill assaulting a woman, Kansas City cut him. However, KC has still shown that they can hang with even the most veteran of teams but this season rides or dies with their 2nd year QB.

3. Pittsburgh Steelers (7-4-1) - the Steelers have shown that they don't need Le'Veon Bell in the backfield to compete. Ben Roethlisberger is a seasoned veteran with a strong enough offensive core around him that is capable of leading Pittsburgh back to the Super Bowl.

4. Los Angeles Chargers (9-3) – Phillip Rivers has waited for about 10 years to finally have a team as good as the one he has right now. The Chargers may have one of the best D-lines in all of football consisting of Melvin Ingram, Joey Bosa, and Brandon Mebane, along with an elite secondary lead by young star Casey Hayward.

5. Houston Texans (9-3) – After 2 years of high expectations and poor results, this might finally be Houston's year. A tremendous defense with a healthy JJ Watt rushing the passer, along with Tyranna Mathieu at safety complements one of the best QB-WR combinations in the league in DeAndre Hopkins and DeShaun Watson.

6. Baltimore Ravens (7-5) – The last remaining Wild Card slot is a toss-up but Baltimore looks like it could pull away. Lamar Jackson has already set records in his 3 games at quarterback but his inexperience may be enough of a reason to start the seasoned veteran Joe Flacco, assuming the Ravens make playoffs.

Celtics' early season struggles look to be over; performances improve

Zach Coffey
Contributing Writer



The Celtics seem to be turning their play around (Pinterest)

After starting the year with 4-2 winning record, the Celtics had their hopes set on yet another successful season. Since then, the Celtics have gone 6-8 and have struggled to stay consistent. Before the season was underway, NBA analysts predicted that the Celtics might start slow. The team had to re-introduce two stars, Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward, who both returned from serious injuries. Plus, two of their best players during

the postseason were Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown who have a mere three years of NBA experience between them. With that being said, this is the worst start for the Celtics through their first 20 games since the 2015 season.

Many people are pointing to several different reasons for the Celtics' rough patch. One theory is that it is because they do not have a lot of veterans on the roster. Irving commented on the veteran leadership on the roster, "Looking at this locker room, me being in my eighth year and being a veteran as well as Al and Baynes, right now I think it would be nice if we had someone that was a 15-year vet ... That could kind of help us race along the regular season and understand it's a long marathon rather than just a full-on sprint, when you want to play, when you want to do what you want to do. It's all about attitude and effort. That's all it is."

Others are blaming the poor start to the Celtics offensive struggles, as well as, new lineups constantly being introduced. Boston ranks 27th overall in offensive rating. There are many other areas that Boston needs to improve on. Most notable is their free-throw attempt rate. Boston ranks second in the NBA in that category.

When asked a question regarding the Celtics re-introducing a player like Gordon Hayward, Coach Brad Stevens commented, "That has a lot to do with it, but it's not just those guys. It's everybody, learning how to play with one another and understand our roles on the team. That's been our biggest challenge so far this season." Coach Stevens isn't turning a blind eye to the fact that the Celtics have many new pieces this year and is working to find rotations that work the best for the team.

Since the Celtics lost to the Mavericks on November 24th, they have stepped their game up. They have won their last three games against the Cavaliers, Pelicans, and the Timberwolves.

Hayward had to say this after the most recent game, "It's slowly coming along. I think my confidence is slowly coming back too. I'm still not where I want to be, but for sure me attacking is better for our team and not being hesitant or passive." Hayward is confident that the team will soon hit their stride and reach their true full potential.

The Celtics continue to try and find their identity as a basketball team. With the hype the team received in all the preseason polls the team has high expectations to live up to and there is no doubt that they have the talent to do so. This week the Celtics will take on the Knicks and Bulls and look to build upon their three-game win streak.

Rob Gronkowski: a look at his career and its potential end

Hannah Scanlan
Contributing Writer

Much like his rough and tumble play style, Rob "Gronk" Gronkowski's career has been quite the show. However, it is only so long that a player can play rough before the tumble starts to set in. Gronk has seen a decently grim spell of injuries throughout his time with the Patriots that have left him sidelined and forced the Patriots to show their true offensive prowess without a star receiver. With the end of his contract fast approaching it is concerning for the future of the Patriot's offense. The fact that he is a franchise player means his passing affects not only the player, but the franchise as well. The drama surrounding Gronk potentially places the New England Patriots on the brink of the end of an era of powerhouse football.

Gronkowski has suffered numerous injuries throughout his football career; however, his lingering injury is his back. The problem first started in 2009 when he had pain going down his legs and needed to get a microdiscectomy, causing him to miss his junior year at the University of Arizona. As a Patriot he has now had three back surgeries including his second microdiscectomy in 2013 when he suffered a vertebral fracture. His latest back surgery was done in 2016 due to a herniated disc. Having three lumbar surgeries by the age of 27 is not a good sign for the future of Gronkowski's professional football career. With Gronk's massive size, heart, and physicality for the game, he cannot help getting injured. In the 2018 season Gronkowski continued to suffer with injuries forcing him to sit out in a game against the Chicago Bears. The Patriots offense was not the same without Gronk and his touchdown spikes that game.

Gronk loves playing for the Patriots and plans to play for them as long as he can. Recently, there were rumors going around that the Patriots were going to trade him to the Detroit Lions. Gronk's initial reaction was retirement because he said he would rather retire than play for anyone else. When an ESPN reporter asked him about being traded, his response was, "Brady's my quarterback. That's all. I'm not going anywhere

without Brady."

If Gronk decides to retire in the next few years, who knows how much longer the superstar quarterback will continue to play. Brady is one of the oldest quarterbacks still playing in the NFL. The dynamic duo, Brady and Gronk, have won multiple NFL Super Bowls together with their great chemistry on and off the field. With two of the New England Patriots most valuable players looking towards retirement soon, it is uncertain who will be next to step up and continue the winning culture for the Patriots.



Rob Gronkowski (NESN)

Interested in writing about Sports?
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As we announced yesterday on the Bryant Football Coach's Show, we have scheduled FBS-member Central Michigan for the 2020 season.

This is our first-ever scheduled game against an FBS member and will take place on Sept. 26, 2020. -@BryantUFootball

This Week's Scores

Men's Basketball - Game December 1

UNH 65

Bryant 75

Women's Basketball - Game December 2

Providence College 72

Bryant 64

Women's Volleyball - Game November 30

Bryant 0

Minnesota 3

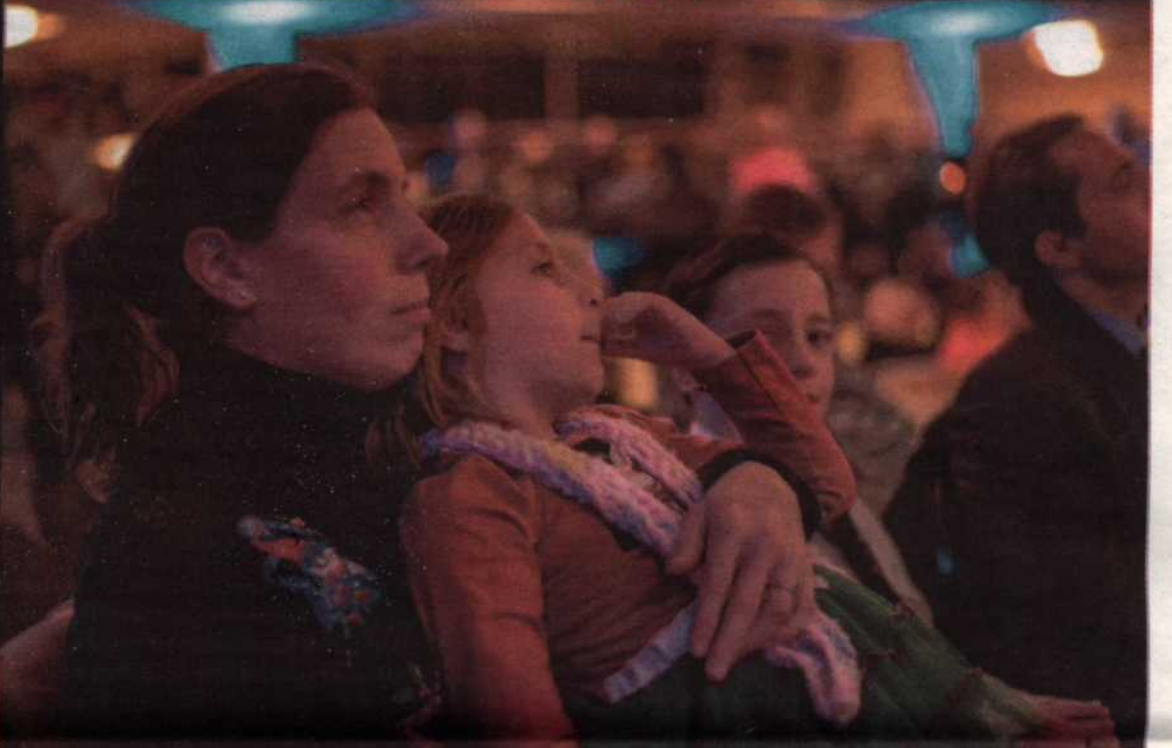
Week's Best Tweets

"Sydney Holloway of @bryantwbball and Micah Ornelas of @Bryant_SwimDive are the @ NavigantCU Athletes of the Week!"

-@BryantAthletics

"James Perry has stepped down as the head coach of the Bryant Football program. A national search for the next Bryant Football head coach will begin immediately.."

-@BryantUFootball



Festival of Lights 2018

Photos by Christopher Groneng

Baseball is not an American pastime; it's *the American Spirit*

Kyle Scafariello
Contributing Writer

Christina-Taylor Green loved baseball. Every year her father John, a widely respected scout for the Dodgers, took a trip up to Cape Cod to watch the best young stars play baseball. As soon as his daughter Christina was old enough to make the trip, he started bringing her with him.

Summer after summer on cold mornings in July, Christina would attend the Brewster Whitecaps morning baseball camps. In the Cape Cod league, it's customary that each team have their players and coaches hold camps. Nineteen- and twenty-year-old players hoping to be drafted next June run the camps as their summer job, making a little extra money teaching the game that they love to kids five years old and up. If you go to a game in Dennis-Yarmouth there are countless adults in the stands that will tell you stories about current superstars who made an impact on their kids' lives. Names like Chris Sale, Buster Posey, and Aaron Boone fly out of their mouths, followed by something like "changed my kids' lives forever."

Christina was exceptionally athletic, smart, and outgoing. She was the only girl to play on her Canyon Del Oro Little League team. Her father thought she was a natural for politics, for when she was eight years old, she had mastered the art of talking with others, not to them. People who met her say she just loved meeting people around the baseball fields and sharing her joy. To many, she promised she would someday be either the first woman to play in the major leagues (as a second baseman, of course) or she would be a member of the United States Congress, like her Tucson, Ariz. Representative, Gabrielle Giffords.

The group who runs the Cape Cod Baseball League gives out an award in Peter Gammons, a famous baseball writer for The Athletic and ESPN, name every year with no criteria, just somebody who embodies the spirit and soul of the game. Years ago, they chose Christina as that person. She embodied all the good in our national pastime. Not television ratings or licensing deals or parking lot revenues, but the love of baseball and a pure, selfless love of what she dreamed her country was, is, and always would be.

Eight years old.

The next time I heard about Christina was the following year. Her parents Roxanna and John were being honored at Fenway Park. They had sprinkled Christina's ashes out onto the rocks off the Brewster Flats and had driven up to Fenway to be honored before the Red Sox game. This was months after the morning of January 8th, on which Christina's neighbor was going to a meet-and-greet speaking event at the Tucson supermarket. She had invited Christina, who'd turned nine on September 11,



Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. (Getty Images)

2010, to come along and meet the congresswoman she so admired. A 22-year-old man opened fire on Giffords, who was struck in the head, but survived a serious brain injury. Eight others died, including Christina.

The following spring, the Diamondbacks and Dodgers combined to make significant improvements to the Tucson little league field on which Christina had played and named it Green Field in her honor.

During the regional little league tournament at Green

Field, Logan White Jr., son of the former Los Angeles scouting director Logan White (now with the Padres) and a friend of Christina's, changed his uniform to No. 12, the number she had worn. In the final inning of the championship game, White hit a two-out, three-run walk-off homer, and as he circled the bases, he pointed to the 12 on his back and afterward dedicated the home run to her.

On January 31, we will celebrate Jackie Robinson's 100th birthday, and on February 5th at UCLA begins the year-long celebration of what he meant to baseball, to sports, to our country. In a nation culturally and racially divided and faced with daily fears, and for all the sports' ongoing challenges, baseball still holds an important place in our history — reflecting our immigration patterns and standing tall to end the notion that discrimination is "just the way it is" with giants like Robinson, Branch Rickey, Bill Veeck and Larry Doby.

This year, both World Series teams had players from a dozen different countries. It was the first World Series that featured two managers of color. After the second game of the World Series, the American League MVP grabbed a friend, gathered post-game food, walked a mile down the road to the Boston Public Library and distributed food to the homeless huddling outside. After a photographer walking by secretly snapped a photo of the act of kindness, Mookie Betts said "It was not intended to be a public thing." Meanwhile at the same time, the National League MVP Christian Yelich had been trying to help family and friends cope with a recent shooting in his hometown, Thousand Oaks.

No matter what happens in our country, we still have baseball. Whatever canyons are created in our country, we still have people like Mookie Betts and Christian Yelich. We have Alex Cora and Jackie Robinson, and we have people like Christina. Baseball has helped bring us these stories. Stories of hope like bringing food to the homeless, stories of courage like Jackie Robinson, and stories of pure innocence like Christina, a little girl who loved baseball and idolized her local representative until someone took it all away from her.

George Plimpton once said, "Baseball is not really the American Pastime. It's not a pastime. It's the American spirit."

Kareem Hunt becomes violent in viral video

Andrew Tivnan
Contributing Writer

Video of Chiefs star running back Kareem Hunt shoving and kicking a 19-year-old woman in the hallway of a Cleveland hotel surfaced earlier this week. Released by TMZ, the video shows Hunt and the woman speaking in the hallway of his Cleveland residence. Hunt then pushes the woman, who retaliates by punching him in the face. Two men escort Hunt away, but he eventually breaks free and rushes at a man who bumps into the woman, knocking her over. Hunt then proceeds to kick the woman in the leg while she is on the ground. The incident occurred earlier this year, in February.

Hunt requested a one-on-one interview with ESPN on Sunday. During the interview, Hunt explained how sorry he was for his actions and explains the events that occurred that night. Hunt said that he had never met the woman before that night, and that things were said and done that he did not like, which led to the altercation. The Chiefs organization says that Hunt was not truthful when he told them about the incident back in February. They claim Hunt did not tell them about the video that surfaced earlier this week. After the video was made public, Hunt was released from the Chiefs, and faces a minimum six game suspension from the league. While Hunt claims that the NFL never questioned him about the incident, the NFL officials did say they reached out to the woman and her friend but were unable to reach them.

Many are comparing Hunts situation to similar situations involving other NFL

stars like Ray Rice. Video of the former Baltimore Ravens running back punching his then-fiancée surfaced in 2014. Rice never played in the NFL again after TMZ released the video. Rice spoke with Hunt recently about the incident and what Hunt's best steps would be in moving forward. Hunt led the NFL in rushing yards last year as a rookie and was a key component on the Chiefs roster this season with 14 touchdowns, 825 yards, and 26 catches.

The 23-year-old University of Toledo Graduate had a promising career in the NFL. He had a starting spot on the Chiefs roster, who have 9 wins and 1 loss this season, putting them at the number one seed in the AFC. Hunt said he hopes he will get another shot in the NFL, but he doesn't know if that is going to happen. He is planning on taking anger management classes, as well as taking other steps in order to better himself. It will be interesting to see how the NFL handles the punishment of Hunt while players like Redskins running back Adrian Peterson, who was caught disciplining his children with a stick, and wide receiver Tyreek Hill, Hunts teammate, who was accused of punching his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach, continue to play in the NFL today.

The NFL continues to see incidents like this in the league, and it is becoming more of a problem. It will be interesting to see how Kareem Hunt handles this situation himself, and if the NFL will give him another shot to prove himself in the league again.

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The Archway interviews David Norton

Matthew Carvalho
Staff Writer

On November 20th, 2018, I was granted the opportunity to interview Bryant University alum and 2018 candidate in the Pawtucket mayoral race, David Norton. We first talked about his time growing up in two different neighborhoods in the city of Pawtucket. He said that going from the neighborhood of Woodlawn, which at the time was racially diverse, to Fairlawn, which then had a predominantly white, English-speaking population, had a tremendous impact on his life. He pointed out many problems in the Pawtucket school system at the time, with one of the biggest being bullying.

Norton said that he ended up dropping out of Slater Junior High and entering the work force at the age of fifteen because he felt they were not teaching him what he needed to be taught or any useful skills. From there, he went on to rent an apartment while he continued to work and obtain his GED since he wanted to go to college. Norton then talked about how he joined the army because it was what he needed to do in order to afford college. After serving pm activity duty for three years, Norton came to realize what a tough life it is for those enlisted, for you had to be disciplined and follow orders. Norton said life was particularly hard for him because there were times where he felt the people above him were wrong and he wanted to point that out to them but was not in the position to do so. While he learned a lot in the army, he did not enjoy his daily life in this field.

In regards to his life as a student at Bryant University back in the 1990s, when it was Bryant College, he lived at his sister's house as a commuter. Norton's time at college was "certainly not a college student experience", for he spent little time on

campus and would go only to learn. He told me that the academics at Bryant are what really prepared him to run for political office for multiple reasons. The fact that the college, even back then, gave him an extensive background in business played a large role in his run for office. He was able to learn how the city budget works, the interest rates work, how the tax policies work, and other things of that nature.

His time when he studied abroad in Denmark, through Bryant, also helped him run because he was able to learn to adapt to people that thought differently from him, spoke a different language, and had a different background. Bryant's International Studies program prepared him to communicate with all sorts of cultural groups and understand things from their perspective, which is a necessary skill to have when running for political office just about anywhere in the country.

The first Pawtucket issue we discussed was the prospect of losing the company of Hasbro Incorporated and what should be done about this problem. He said that he does think that the city is likely to lose the company because their executives are interested in being on a campus or a place where there is access to designers and engineers. Norton said that the current elected officials would like to offer Hasbro a tax incentive. The Commerce Corporation often gives out tax incentives to politically connected and influential people and large businesses like Hasbro.

Norton believes that a tax break would not work for Hasbro and he would not be in support of it. He said it is against market forces to have tax payers pay a company to stay in Pawtucket and it just would not work. If they were to stay in Rhode Island, he believes it would likely be Providence and that they would try to access the talent at Brown University and RISD and attempt to get a tax incentive out of it so they could build a new campus. Norton said if he was elected Mayor of Pawtucket, that he would

create a group to assist people that were laid off or likely to be laid off and try to put policies in place to protect the benefits and the incomes of those people that they are entitled to if Hasbro were to leave the city.

He said that this would be practical because the city is going to lose a lot of money that the employees would be spending in the Pawtucket economy. He would want the people to be able to live safely but also spend money to help maintain and grow the city's economy. In terms of improving the business climate of the city, he believes the people should support smaller family businesses much more than they currently are. He said that one of the ways to do that is to reach out to the immigrant community in Pawtucket.

Norton said that places like Armando and Sons's Meat Market and Spumoni's Restaurant, that are based in Pawtucket and hire local citizens, should be offered benefits from the city so if something like Hasbro or the Pawsox or Memorial hospital left, it would not shock the economy as much as it would if the smaller businesses were not receiving help from the city. He also mentioned how he is against the over 5% car tax in the city because it is taking so much money out of the local economy that could be used to support a local, small business.

Norton also said that he is a progressive Democrat and does not want a free market, for he thinks that the government does have to intervene sometimes. When I asked him about what is next for him in his political career, he said that it is likely that he will run for mayor again in 2020. He said he thinks the city is heading in the wrong direction because of the state economic policy as well as the decisions of the local elected officials.

We concluded our conversation by talking about running for office. I have been mulling over a run for office in 2020, and Norton was able to give some advice that could be utilized for anyone who is

considering a run. He said that the first thing that someone should do is to build a base. A good way that he said to do that is to have an issue that is important to people and to start a petition for people to sign with their name and email and things like that. By creating a petition, one can have all this information about people that were concerned about an issue that they can email, call, or write letters to, fundraise from, build a social media presence, and build a media presence.

Norton also told me that I would have a major disadvantage if I ran for the seat that I am considering running for to the incumbent official, but he also said that if people have an issue that they truly believe, they should act. He said that people who choose to not run because they say something like "I'll just wait for another opportunity" are lazy.

He said it would be an uphill battle, but it is also worth it because if I would win by working hard, that would be incredible. On top of this, you still learn a lot through your first election, like how you cannot trust anybody, and how they change the rules for you because you are the challenger. He said that by running once, I can get my name out there and maybe the incumbent will run for something else, not run at all, or actually is vulnerable enough to be defeated.

Overall, this interview taught me quite a bit about David Norton and his ideas on how to contribute to the city, but I also gained some helpful advice that not only is something that I will keep in mind as I decide on my run for state office in 2020, but also something that I am able to provide to all who wish to run for office one day. I would like to thank Mr. Norton again for what was an informational and enjoyable interview and for the advice that was given.

A second take: Kareem Hunt becomes violent in viral video

Sam Owens
Contributing Writer

Video of Chiefs star running back Kareem Hunt shoving and kicking a 19-year-old woman in the hallway of a Cleveland hotel surfaced earlier this week. Released by TMZ, the video shows Hunt and the woman speaking in the hallway of his Cleveland residence. Hunt then pushes the woman, who retaliates by punching him in the face. Two men escort Hunt away, but he eventually breaks free and rushes at a man who bumps into the woman, knocking her over. Hunt then proceeds to kick the woman in the leg while she is on the ground. The incident occurred earlier this year, in February.

Hunt requested a one-on-one interview with ESPN on Sunday. During the interview, Hunt explained how sorry he was for his actions and explains the events that occurred that night. Hunt said that he had never met the woman before that night, and that things were said and done that he did not like, which led to the altercation. The Chiefs organization says that Hunt was not truthful when he told them about the incident back in February. They claim Hunt did not tell them about the video that surfaced earlier this week. After the video was made public, Hunt was released from the Chiefs, and faces a minimum six game suspension from the league. While Hunt claims that the NFL never questioned him about the incident, the NFL officials did say they reached out to the woman and her friend but were unable to reach them.

Many are comparing Hunt's situation to similar situations involving other NFL stars like Ray Rice. Video of the former Baltimore Ravens running back punching his then-fiancée surfaced in 2014. Rice never played in the NFL again after TMZ released the video. Rice spoke with Hunt recently about the incident and what Hunt's best steps would be in moving forward. Hunt led the NFL in rushing yards last year as a rookie and was a key component on the Chiefs roster this season with 14 touchdowns, 825 yards, and 26 catches.

The 23-year-old University of Toledo Graduate had a promising career in the NFL. He had a starting spot on the Chiefs roster, who have 9 wins and 1 loss this season, putting

them at the number one seed in the AFC. Hunt said he hopes he will get another shot in the NFL, but he doesn't know if that is going to happen. He is planning on taking anger management classes, as well as taking other steps in order to better himself. It will be interesting to see how the NFL handles the punishment of Hunt while players like Redskins running back Adrian Peterson, who was caught disciplining his children with a stick, and wide receiver Tyreek Hill, Hunt's teammate, who was accused of punching his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach, continue to play in the NFL today.

The NFL continues to see incidents like this in the league, and it is becoming more of a problem. It will be interesting to see how Kareem Hunt handles this situation himself, and if the NFL will give him another shot to prove himself in the league again.



The Opinion pages of the Archway feature the opinions of the identified columnists and writers, which are not necessarily those of the newspaper or Bryant University

Why the medieval age was so dangerous

Thomas R. Maranian
Variety Editor



War was often violent and bloody (DinunzioGlobalStudies)

Hail companions! How fare thee? A just saying, common to many castle, village, and traveler folk of the medieval ages.

Have you ever danced with the Devil under the pale moonlight? You likely would have, had you been alive between the 5th and 15th century in Europe. Back then, despite its glorification in television, film, and literature, things were full of chaos, strife, greed, lust, and no small amount of plague. Sounds awfully like today, does it not? Minus the plague of course. Much of today's living conditions have a great number of similarities to the medieval ages. Though they will not be explicitly stated in this article, it is your task to uncover the secrets for yourself, based on what is stated and what is not stated. And so, as they would have also said back then—take heed, for what you are about to learn is not to be taken lightly!

The grand majority of people were not royalty or nobility. You likely lived a life as a servant of a superior being, society, and order. These servants were called serfs. They worked the land indefinitely, and could not leave it for any reason, unless granted access by their liege lord. They were prisoners of the land. The serfs had awful living conditions and were treated as scum. They were beaten for discrepancies and killed for trying to escape. If they refused to pay tithes to their lords, they were killed. If they so much as said something out of line, they were killed... or worse.

The most dangerous threat to people was undoubtedly the plague. As is common knowledge at this point, the Black Death wiped out over half the population in Europe when it hit. Although the exact number is unclear, even to this day, it is known that an upwards of a hundred million and counting were killed. Let that sink in for a moment. The reason the total count is a gray matter is because records back then were poor, to say the least. Not too many people knew how to write anyways. The Black Death was just one of the plagues that affected the populous of Europe. Countless epidemics eradicated countless people. If you were infected with the plague, you had no more than a 20% chance of survival. You likely died within the week, never to be seen again. If you got it, there was no escape. You would say your farewells to the family you had left and hoped you would meet them once more in the kingdom of heaven.

If you had a disease, the solution believed to work by healers was to bleed the skin in the place where the exposure took place. The idea was to remove the "bad blood" from the infected sight. Unfortunately, this erroneous method resulted in infection, horrific pain, and death.

If you received wounds from swords, spears, arrows, knives, or anything else, there was little to no chance of recovery. Anesthetics was nonexistent in this time frame. There was little understanding of the way the body operated. No formal medication was at hand. Pain, misery, and death resulted.

For the most part, the knights, who so many believe to be a group of chivalrous men who protected the people and exhibited exquisite manners, were naught more than a group of men with high testosterone levels. They sought combat, rape, and power. Women, despite what many believe, were actually just as much a part of their land as the men. They worked the fields just the same as men; they ran small shops just the same as men; they were queens just the same as kings. Occasionally, they were

raped and oppressed in certain villages and cities. If they were, those who did so were killed.

Sudden and early death was communal amongst all people. People went to rest each night, not knowing whether they would make it to the next morning. People arose each day, not knowing whether they would see another sunrise. Everyone ran the risk of beheading for some reason or another. They just bided their time and prayed to God for a safe, long, and peaceful life with their loved ones. Even if you were a noble or royal, everyone died at a young age, for food was scarce and not in surplus, and was not like how we have it today where there was prolonged and sustained life. Of course, longevity did depend on socio-economic class. Kings and queens broke bread like bears, whereas serfs only just scraped by. Even so, there was no guarantee. Royals and those in power were often murdered by conspirators and assassins out of terror and fear of what might be the next decree. It was not common, until the later portion of the medieval ages, that people ate three meals. This was when people began to realize they needed more strength to perform better in the fields, as well as have more wits to deal with the regal affairs of angry lords. It did not matter, though. Even those who were well-fed faced famine at some point or another. The standard two meals per day might have become two per week. And as is known today, malnutrition leads to a shutdown in bodily function, just the same as sleep deprivation. The Great Famine is said to have killed off 15% of all the people in England.

Those who live to 80 back then. People typically lived to their late twenties and early thirties. If they made it to 30, though, they had a good chance of surviving to 40. If they made it to 40, 50 was not so out of the question. Again, there was no guarantee. Death, in some cases, was an ally. With all the hardships faced in life, death was an attractive alternative. Suicide was just as common as execution.

Disagreeing with the church was seen as a sin, in and of itself. Heretics were burnt at the stake, crucified, or executed, or all three. Wars waged across lands in an effort to unify the world under one religion—Christendom. Those who were condemned to be users of witchcraft were also burnt at the stake with their heads mounted on pikes afterwards. You were publicly ostracized for all to see and witness as a threat to the world.

On the subject of war, it was a grueling affair. Kings were lustful for expansion into other lands. Knights were barbaric individuals with an agenda for violence, bloodshed, and sex. Queens wanted to see their husband's dead in order to be free from their abuse, and often turned to poison. In some cases, you were exiled from the safety of the kingdom into the wild, where enemies would capture you, enslave you, beat you, and kill you. Or if you were worth something, you were ransomed off. On the eve of battle, some may have been caught fleeing the castle or battle grounds out of fear for their lives. Others would pray to their God or gods for strength, guidance, and protection. Others might have drunk themselves till they could no longer see properly. Others might have been seen in brothels.

New recruits in battle tended to literally defecate at the sound of their enemies approaching. Teenagers and younglings did not know if they would see the light of day after the coming battle. They thought of home, their brothers and sisters, and all the things they had not yet done in their lives before the battle began. Loved ones, who stayed away from the battlefield, would get upset with their husbands, fathers, brothers, and uncles for leaving them when times were most tough. They would get upset with the king and lords for taking away their loved ones, not knowing if they would ever see them again. Some who fought in battle would get what we know today as PTSD, only for them it was likely called bewitchment or Devil's disease.

Post battle, the men who survived typically went home to their families or stayed up all night getting drunk once more for the loss of their fellow soldiers and brothers. They might have shared stories of their heroics during the battle. Typically, there would be a burial service to mourn the fallen. If soldiers were not at the assigned rendezvous point by sun's rise or set, they would be thought of as dead or captured, and left to the will of their God or gods. Death tolls ranged from 10,000 to 30,000 for single battles and grew to well over 100,000 for the entirety of a single conquest.

If famine, disease, and poor living conditions were not enough to kill, the weather would do the job just fine. Summers were hot; winters were harsh; everything in between was no better than decent. Winter was worst of all, for it soiled the crops and resulted in failed harvests. Starvation, disease, inflation, and higher death rates

resulted. People began to believe the bad weather was the fault of heathens, idolaters, and witches. The weather killed the animals, first. And because of that, the people had nothing left to eat. The winter was a person of its own. When wars were fought during winter, soldiers lay awake at night feeling like the winter season was trying to kill them before the battle, so as to save them from the onslaught that might've ensued (if they were outnumbered from their enemies). Therefore, some chose to let the cold take them, while the strong fought with all their might and bundled up as best they could till morning, vowing to not be defeated by the forces of nature.

Violence itself was in the heart of every home, village, town, and castle. People were either bystanders or accomplices. Blood vendettas even occurred between families for claims to the throne, claims to the land, or claims to marriage partners. For those who did not have the authority to exercise justice over the matters, a higher authority stepped in and likely settled them, the hard way.

Trials by ordeal were the go-to answer for all violence. There was trial by combat, in which participants—likely two—fought to the death for the right to live and be deemed innocent under the eyes of God or gods. There was trial by poison, in which participants ingested a poisonous bean. If they died from it, they were guilty, while if you threw it up, you were innocent. There was trial by hot water, in which participants had to stick their hand in a kettle or pot of boiling hot water to retrieve a stone. If someone refused to do it, they were deemed guilty, while if they successfully retrieved it, they were deemed as innocent. There were a whole number of other sorts of trials that took place, all of which were usually in a church with the intention that God would watch over the participants and judge who was innocent and who was guilty.

Traveling of all kinds was extremely unsafe. Travelling by land was a death wish. Horses could only ride for so long a time before they needed rest, just the same as how a human could only walk so far without tiring. In the time people rested, their throats were cut by invaders and raiders. If you were a courier and carried battle plans or secret documents for another lord or royal, and you were killed, those plans were stolen by the enemy and resulted in another bloodbath. Again, the weather was spiteful. Sleeping overnight in the cold resulted in hypothermia. The nearest inn was miles away—much too far to travel when freezing. Foreigners on the road, who did not speak the common tongue, would believe you to be an enemy and would raise arms against you. So, unless you were a skilled fighter, the road was all too risky.

Travelling by sea was also a death wish. Storms or enemies, or both, would claim your lives before you could reach your destination.

Childbirth for women was a 50-50 situation. Giving birth was riskier than crossing an armed knight. Unskilled laborers administered a child's birth, and likely knew not what they were doing. If the mother was fortunate enough to survive childbirth to see their newborn, they might only see them for all of a few minutes because of infection and unforeseen conditions, whether for the mother or the child or both. Being born into a royal or noble family did not guarantee survival, nor did all the doctors in the area. The fate of both mother and child was often left to priests of the church to see to their good health. Children suffered from plague just the same as adults.

The punishment for refusal or inability to pay tithes was not what we know today as filing for bankruptcy or imprisonment. Lords saw no more use for those who could not pay their dues. The result: death.

Those who were disabled or had mental issues were seen as demons, possessed beings, and threats to the general public. They were publicly flogged, flayed, castrated, imprisoned, and killed—all dependent upon the lord of the castle.

Water was in short supply. Because of this, everyone drank ale, wine, beer, and other alcoholic beverages, religiously. The water that was supplied was not certain to be clean. Continuous deprivation from clean water eventually caused bodily malfunction. Additionally, showers did not exist. The occasional bath took place for royals and nobles once every two weeks. Again, the water was far from what we know today as clean. If you were a peasant—and you likely would have been—a bath was out of the question. The inability to stay clean only catalyzed disease.

All in all, the medieval ages were a deadly era to have lived in. Perhaps it is that very reason so many find it most interesting. There is much and more to discover about such an age that remains a mystery. It is best to tell what we do know, true, and deflate the myths. As they would say back then—go in peace to serve the church, the king, and the light! Until our next meeting.

The Geminid Meteor Shower and more: early holiday treats for all stargazers

David A. Huestis
Professor

As the year advances into the month of December, sunrise times occur much later in the morning, while sunset times occur much earlier. Here in southern New England the latest sunrise is around 7:13:09 a.m. on January 2, whereas the earliest sunset is around 4:14:58 p.m. on December 11. Despite the usually increasingly cold nights, amateur astronomers are able to begin their observing sessions soon after the dinner hour. Therefore, December is welcomed by many stargazers since it offers many hours of dark skies...as long as a bright Moon does not intervene.

During mid-to-late November, for those of you who commuted to work in an easterly direction had surely noticed a brilliant beacon above the east-southeast horizon before sunrise. That dazzling object was the planet Venus. Venus will continue to dominate the morning sky as December begins. A beautiful sky scene will greet your eyes on the morning of the 3rd as a waning crescent Moon will appear about six degrees above our planetary neighbor.

Joining Venus during early December will be our solar system's closest planet to the Sun—Mercury. On the 5th the waning crescent Moon will pass about six degrees above and to the right of Mercury. Mercury will continue to ascend into the sky until the 10th after which it will then begin to descend back towards the horizon and the Sun. Around this time, depending upon your view of the horizon, you may begin to see the return of Jupiter. Each morning Jupiter will rise higher into the sky as Mercury is setting. On the 22nd these two worlds will appear within one degree (two full Moon diameters) of each other. So if you've never observed Mercury try using Jupiter as your guide to do so. By month's end Mercury will disappear from view in bright morning twilight.

While Mars continues to be visible throughout December, the distance between our two worlds increases from 94,469,737 miles to 117,172,414 miles by month's end. That means the image size of the planet through a telescope will continue to shrink. I suspect Mars' surface detail will be difficult to discern in smaller instruments. Consider how much the Earth has pulled out ahead of Mars in our respective orbits. Back at closest approach at the end of July the Earth and Mars were a mere 35,785,537 million miles apart.

I always look forward to the northern hemispheres' best shooting star display—the Geminids. With the peak of meteor activity on the night of December 13-14, I regard this showers' appearance as an early holiday gift from the Universe. And for 2018 if weather conditions are favorable about 60+ meteors per hour may be seen from about 10 p.m. once the waxing crescent Moon sets until the sky begins to brighten during dawn. With no interfering moonlight stargazers will have an opportunity to see as many meteors as possible. All you will need is a dark-sky location devoid of interfering light pollution sources.

An observer can usually count on the temperature to be at or below the freezing mark during the Geminids. Regardless, I still recommend sitting or reclining in a comfortable lounge chair. Dress in layers. Climb into a sleeping bag if possible. Wear a hat to keep heat from escaping through your exposed head. Wear warm mittens, not gloves. Mittens keep your fingers together for added warmth. You can also use a few of those pocket warmers to keep extremities toasty.

Keep warm and alert, but don't get too comfy out there. I've told the following story

many times since it occurred, but it is a cautionary tale that bears repeating.

Many moons ago during a Geminid meteor shower watch from Seagrave Observatory, the sky was clear when we started observing. However, sometime during the night we all fell asleep. When we awoke we realized some clouds had paid us a visit, since we were all covered with a dusting of snow. Moral of that story is...stay awake while meteor observing during the winter. Otherwise they may have to pick you up with ice tongs and thaw you out in the morning!!

One important fact to remember if you cannot observe the Geminids throughout the night until dawn is that this shower is one that can be observed before midnight. You won't see the peak rate of meteors, but you will see more than you could on any random night of sky watching. And there can be one advantage if you observe within a few hours of sunset. You may catch a few Geminid earth grazers as they skim tangentially across the top of Earth's atmosphere and parallel to the horizon. This scenario provides for much longer streaks, often looking like a stone skipping across a pond.

While the Geminids appear to radiate from Gemini near its brightest stars, Castor and Pollux, scan around the sky as much as possible. As the night progresses and Gemini moves across the sky towards the west, your scan should move as well. At around 2:30 a.m. Gemini will be on your north/south meridian, just south of zenith. The number of meteors per hour should increase throughout your observing session. You'll know you've seen a Geminid if you can trace the origin of the meteor's trail back to the radiant point.

The Geminids are fairly bright and moderate in speed, hitting our atmosphere at 21.75 miles per second. They are characterized by their multicolored display (65% being white, 26% yellow, and the remaining 9% blue, red and green). Geminids also have a reputation for producing exploding meteors called fireballs. The source of the particles that comprise this meteor stream is a two-mile-in-diameter hybrid "rock comet" named 3200 Phaethon. The Earth sweeps through its orbital path annually.

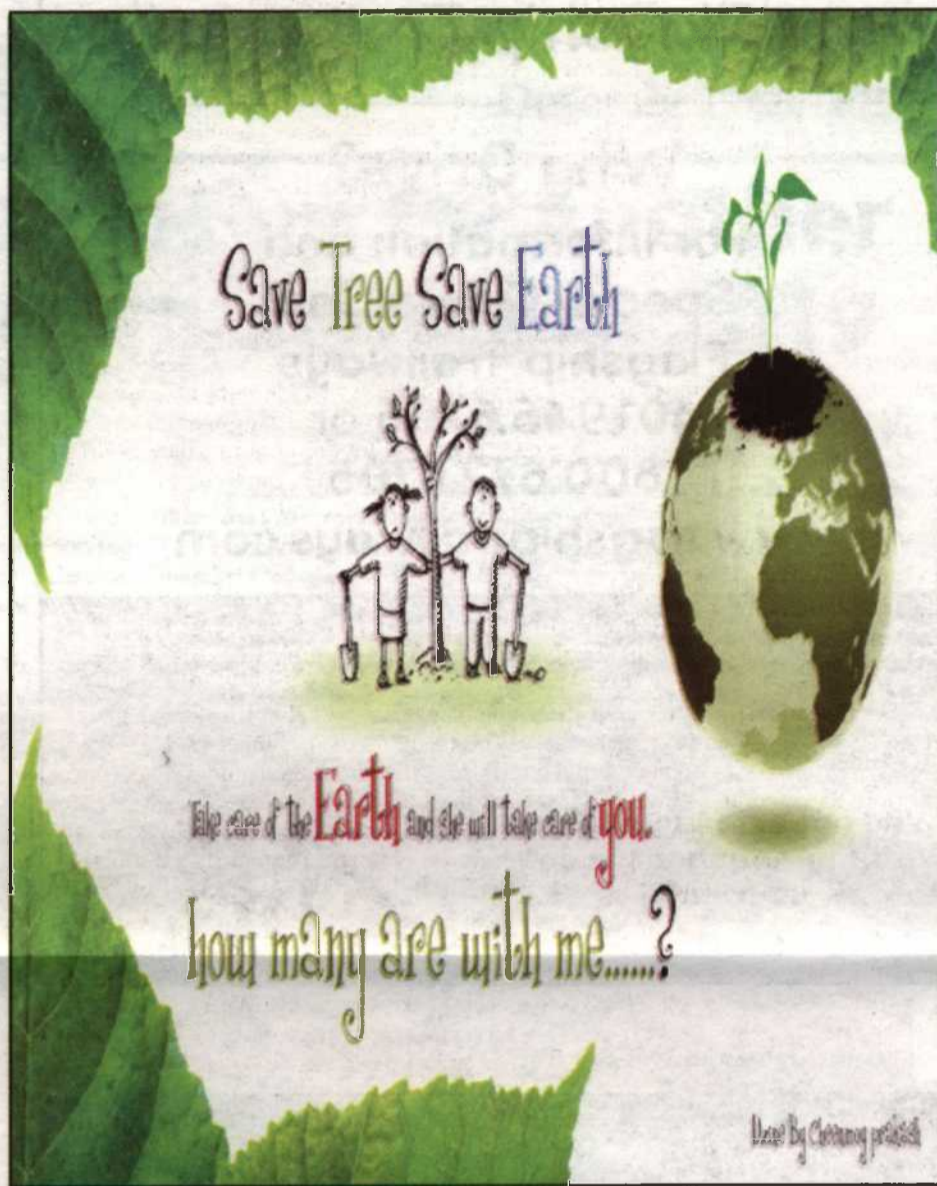
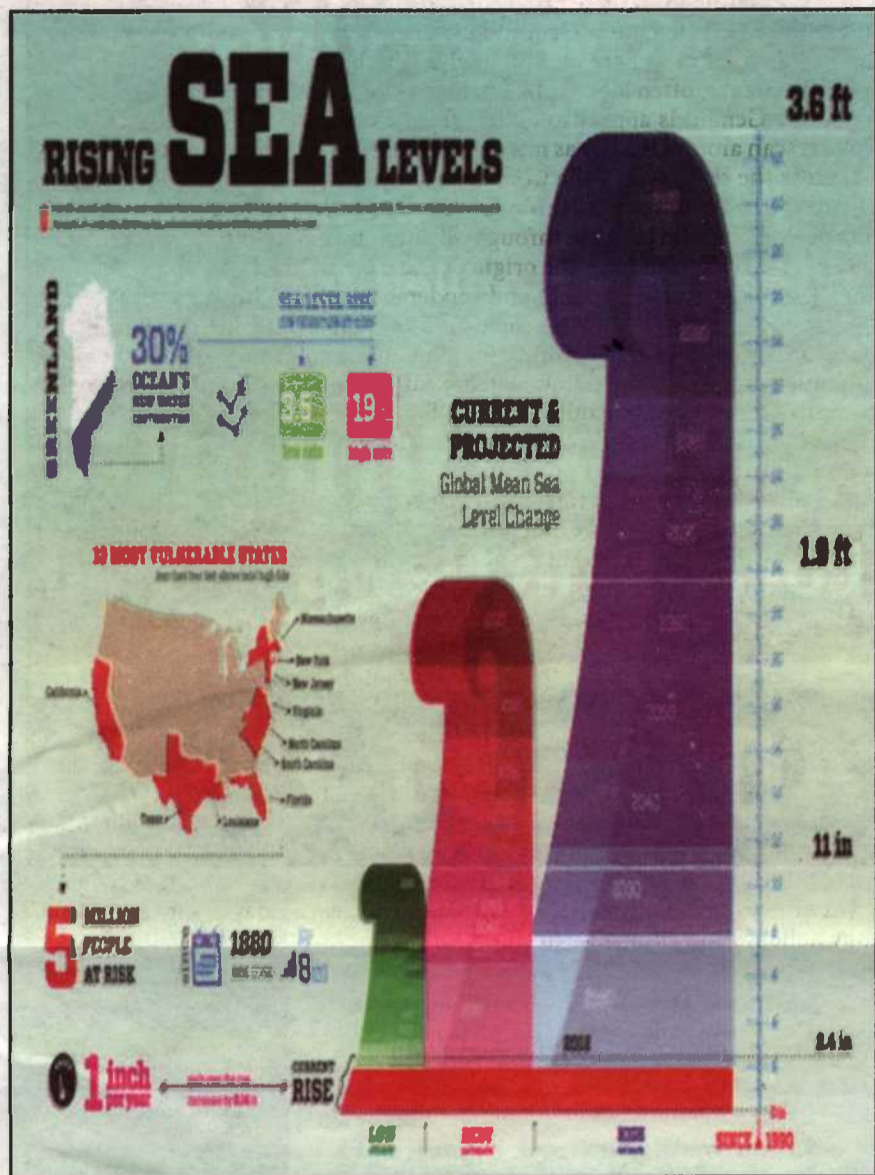
And finally, it doesn't seem possible that winter is nearly upon us in the northern hemisphere. On the 21st the Winter Solstice occurs at 5:23 p.m. EST (Eastern Standard Time). Notice how low an arc the Sun now travels across the sky. After this date and time the Sun's arc will rise higher and higher each day as it appears to travel northward in our sky, reaching the Vernal Equinox (spring) on March 20, 2019 at 5:58 p.m. EDT (Eastern Daylight Time). The apparent shift of the Sun's position in the sky is the result of the Earth's fixed axial tilt of 23.5 degrees as our planet orbits the Sun. Watch the following video for a review of this process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6rgyJkrMXg&list=PLZgu3Zf0g40licyV0VzSzLaCLf5KDszoO&index=2>

Seagrave Memorial Observatory (<http://www.theskyscrapers.org>) in North Scituate is open to the public every clear Saturday night. However, in December Seagrave will be closed on the 15th. Ladd Observatory (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Physics/Ladd/>) in Providence is open every clear Tuesday night. The Margaret M. Jacoby Observatory at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick (<http://www.ccri.edu/physics/observatory.htm>) is open every clear Thursday night. Frosty Drew Observatory (<http://www.frostydrew.org/>) in Charlestown is open every clear Friday night year-round.

Happy holidays and clear skies to all.



Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
35° 18°	29° 20°	33° 22°	37° 26°	34° 23°



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	3	7	9		5			
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			4		8	1	5	7
			2	6		5	4	
		4	1	5		6		9
9			8	7	4	2	1	

Sudoku answers on next page. No cheating!



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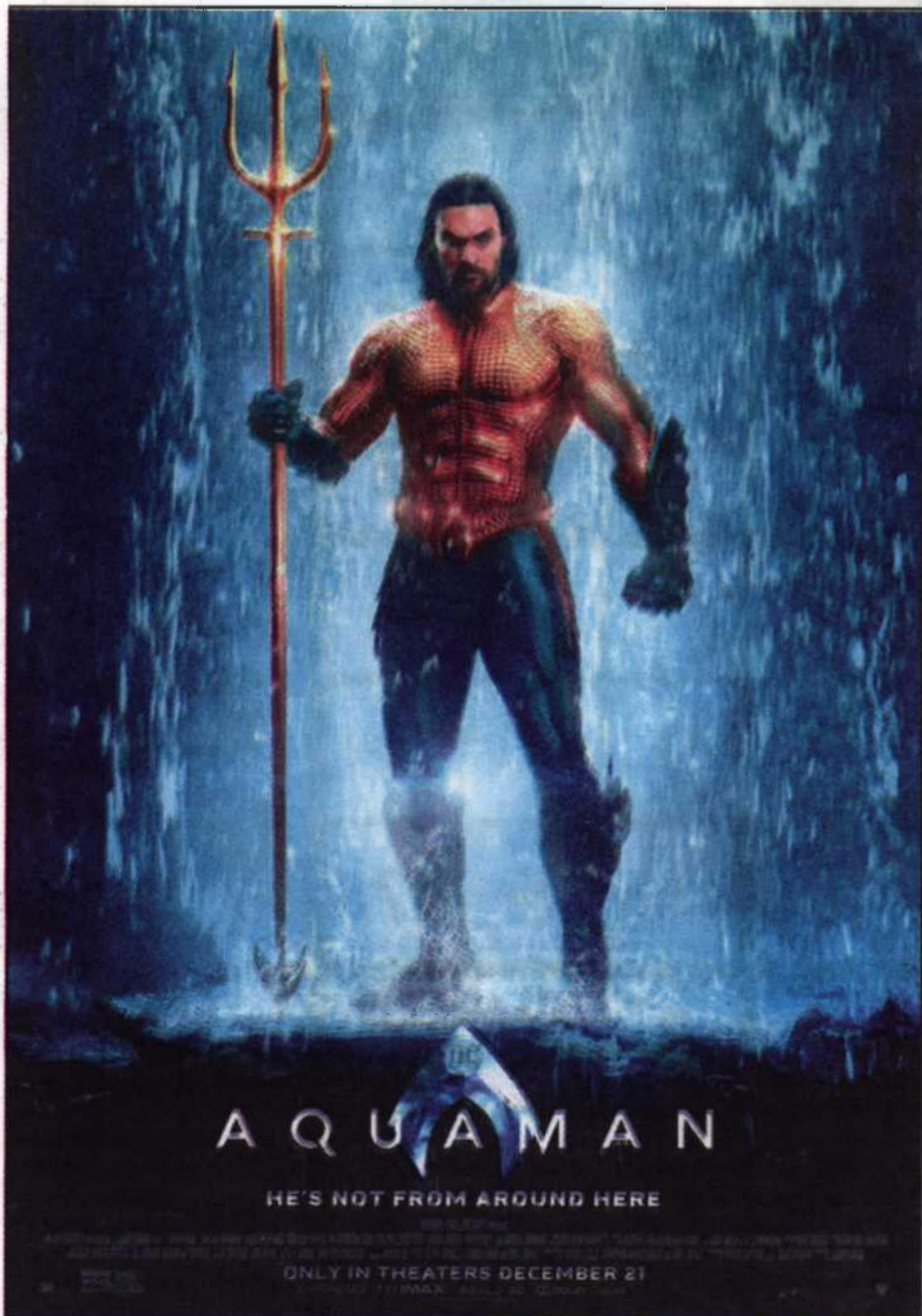
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1	4	6	7	9	2	3	8	5
2	5	8	3	4	6	7	9	1
3	7	9	5	8	1	4	6	2
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5	8	1	6	2	7	9	3	4
6	9	2	4	3	8	1	5	7
7	1	3	2	6	9	5	4	8
8	2	4	1	5	3	6	7	9
9	6	5	8	7	4	2	1	3