Going Green: Making the grade

By Marisa Bono  
Staff Writer

It is only natural to dread seeing your report card, especially with the anticipation of a bad grade. Not only was it hard enough hiding poor marks from your parents back in middle school but imagine having them published on the Internet for the world to see.

Well, this is what happened to Bryant University and unjustifiably so. For those of you who have not heard of the College Sustainability Report Card, it is a system designed by the Sustainable Endowment Institute in Massachusetts and is used to rank a school's ability to develop economically while preserving its environment. Each school is graded in nine different areas: Administration, Climate Change and Energy: Food and Recycling, Green Building, Student Involvement, Transportation, Environmental Transparency, Investment Priorities, and Shareholder Engagement. It ranks the 300 schools in the United States and Canada with the largest endowments. Bryant was 1 of 6 schools to receive an overall grade of “F” failing in all categories but one.

The Report Card failed Bryant in the Administration category, making the claim that the university “has no known policy relating to campus-wide sustainability initiatives.” Ken Person, the Director of Campus and Environmental Management explains, “Although there is no direct written policy, the school adheres to state guidelines at all times.” That as well as the efforts being made to introduce wind power to campus must count for something.

As far as Climate Change and Energy goes, Bryant also received an “F” with the assertion that no steps are being taken to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency or conservation, or make use of renewable energy. It is time for people to start doing their homework. In 2007, Bryant University and IBM joined forces to build an energy-efficient data center that is estimated by Andy Glogue, COO of IBM, to be “30% more efficient in power and cooling terms alone.” Glogue also went on to say that this solution “should also enable the University to reduce its energy consumption and carbon footprint.” I mentioned the ever-growing library in my previous article, but it also deserves some respect. The HVAC system in the library includes copper-wound transformers and high efficiency motors that cut costs and more importantly reduce energy consumption.

The Report Card also claims that there is no known recycling program at Bryant. They can't be serious. Mr. Person is again very reassuring when he explains that “Here at Bryant, we aim to recycle as much as possible.” There are bins on every floor in freshmen housing, in every suite, and in every townhouse, not to mention the ones in the library and the Unistructure. Every bag is sorted by facilities. As far as dining services go, representatives from Sodexo could not be reached for comment on the claim that it has made no local or sustainable food initiatives.

You may have heard talk about the construction of a new residence hall, Hall 18. There has also been talk of this building being accredited by Leadership

See “Sustainability Report” on page 4
Let your voice be heard! Vote 2008!

By Alexa Marino 
Staff Writer

As November is approaching, so is the 2008 Presidential Election. For many of you, this will be the first time that you have the privilege to vote. As ridiculous as it may sound, some of you, this election is extremely tight, and we could be witnessing one of the closest elections in the history of the U.S. It is obvious that students at Bryant University are extremely busy with sports, classes, work, and social activities. Voting is a responsibility that all eligible United States citizens should hold. It is our priority as the future of this country to get out there and validate our vote by voting. This Presidential Election will be affecting us as students, more than anyone else, with issues such as the big bailout. Therefore, it is obvious that voting is currently necessary.

However, it is understood that many of you have encountered some problems that may arise when it comes to the act of voting. After interviewing many Bryant students, it has become evident that a large amount of students seem to be confused with the idea of the absentee ballot. To help provide students, better understand this, below you will find your fellow classmates’ questions and step by step answers.

What is an absentee ballot?
An absentee ballot is a vote cast by someone who is unable to attend the election and cast a ballot at an official election office on the day of the election.

How do I qualify for an absentee ballot?
You can qualify for an absentee ballot if you are absent on Election Day, or if you have a physical disability that prevents you from casting your vote in person, or you cannot vote at the polls due to religious belief.

How can I obtain an absentee ballot?
In order to obtain an absentee ballot, you must request one at least a week before the election occurs. You must be registered and precinct name must be included. You may also vote at a DPW office.

“Must I be a registered voter in order to obtain an absentee ballot?”
Yes, a family member may apply for an absentee ballot for you.

“Why should I vote?”
When you vote, you can protect yourself from fraud and voting errors. By voting, you are able to ensure that your vote has been counted, and you can help protect the future of our country.

“Why should I vote?”
Your vote counts in the final result of an election. Your vote shapes the policies that are created for the future. Your vote helps to elect officials who represent your views and values.

Financial Symposium draws crowd, answers questions

By John Crisaulli
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, October 6, President Ronald K. Machtley and Jack Triffs, dean of the College of Business hosted a special forum to address the current crises in the financial markets. Approximately 200 guests from the surrounding community in addition to students, faculty and members of the forum. The event was held in Jamikes auditorium with overflow seating in the Rotunda featuring a live broadcast of the presentation.

The forum featured commentary from two distinguished faculty members, Peter Nigro, PhD, professor of finance, and Richard Holtzman, professor of operations management, and former senior financial analyst for the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. And, M. Cary Collins, PhD, professor of professional finance, Trustee Professor of Entrepreneurship, and former visiting scholar at the University of Texas' Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

For the first part of the presentation, Nigro helped the audience understand the current state of the financial markets and how we got to such a drastic point. He noted that this was not a normal fluctuation in the markets and that we are in the most difficult times in 39 years. He showed how the housing market has dropped and outlined the crises in not only the subprime market, but in the prime market as well. According, Nigro, a year ago, all you needed was a pulse and you could get a loan to buy housing. Now the absurd lending has come back to haunt us. He also blamed America's lack of financial literacy and its government. Go out on the streets like many thought it would. The act would not but cash on its head. He also blamed the lack of financial literacy and its government. Go out on the streets like many thought it would.
Introducing Bryant's newest senators

By Christine Cox
Staff Writer

University history, fifteen of the 913 members of the Class of 2012 ran for Student Senate. The six seats were filled by six very eager students: Nicholas Mancuso, Justin Trealagan, Jason Fortin, Ami Shah, Dhara Shah, and Cory Cloutier.

Nick Mancuso is from Madison, CT and is no stranger to politics. With a very politically involved family, Mancuso has been involved with politics for much of his life. It’s no wonder that he gravitated towards getting involved with Student Senate his first year at Bryant – he has experience getting things done. He served on the Student Leadership Team at his high school, a position he was appointed to by the principal each of his four years there. The team is made up of twenty-five students who serve as liaisons between the student body and administration – much like Senate. As a part of this team, Mancuso put into action the first freshman integration program that helps eighth-graders integrate from middle school to high school. As a part of Senate, he co-chairs the Faculty Liaison Academic Committee (FLAC) with Jose Batista (’10) and is also a part of the Special Olympics committee, which is dear to his heart because he has a brother with special needs.

“I love the idea of leadership, progression, and moving forward. That is what I want to see at Bryant, the continuation of ideas and moving forward.”

To his 913 class members, he has this to say: “I am here to serve you. I want to talk to everyone, hear every concern, anything you want changed or to be made better, I want to hear it.” So find him. Talk to him.

Justin Trealagan of Waltham, MA is no stranger to leadership. During his time at Waltham High, Trealagan played several sports and was a part of the 10-24 Leadership Club, a leadership club for athletes; he also served as the Vice President of Senate Council.

Growing up and watching his mother work in a store, so much so that the store pushed to have him reprimanded. He was a budding entrepreneur. Knowing that school was not for him and after By the time he got to high school, he was pursuing novelty joke items at wholesale and re-selling them to classmates to make a profit. After nearly being expelled for selling icing powder, he started selling candy. Even at such a young age, he knew how to work the market and turn a profit. He sold better candy and a lower price than the school store, so much so that the store pushed to have him reprimanded. He was a budding entrepreneur.

Knowing that school was not for him and after spending only part of a semester in college, Johnny continued on his path to success. He was not a partier and had trouble sitting still. Instead of going out and wasting money, he stayed in making lists and developing his ideas. “Nothing feels better than crossing something off a list,” he said.

But, his road to success was not a straight away. He spent time traveling with the band he was in and working at Newbury Comics. While working at Newbury, he gained a number of nicknames, but “Johnny Cupcakes” remained one that stuck.

Johnny Earle, CEO and founder of Johnny Cupcakes, the popular t-shirt brand, made an appearance on The Archway’s “On-Air” radio show to talk shop and take questions from listeners on what it takes to build a successful business.

“Johnny Earle, CEO and founder of Johnny Cupcakes, the popular t-shirt brand, made an appearance on The Archway’s “On-Air” radio show to talk shop and take questions from listeners on what it takes to build a successful business.

Johnny wrapped up his presentation by taking questions from the audience. Students also had the chance to purchase his signature t-shirts at a generous discount. Johnny plans to return to Bryant in the future to continue to share the story of his success.

Johnny ‘Cupcakes’ shares his tips for success

By John Crisafulli
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, October 8, Bryant students got the opportunity to hear from a real life entrepreneur. Johnny Earle, CEO and founder of the popular Johnny Cupcakes brand, shared his personal success story and shared tips on how to start a successful company. Johnny was recently named America’s #1 Young Entrepreneur of 2008 by BusinessWeek Magazine. Johnny’s sister, Lindsay Earle, is a senior at Bryant University.

Growing up and watching his mother work in a store, so much so that the store pushed to have him reprimanded. He was a budding entrepreneur.

But, his road to success was not a straight away. He spent time traveling with the band he was in and working at Newbury Comics. While working at Newbury, he gained a number of nicknames, but “Johnny Cupcakes” was one that stuck.

Johnny decided to make a “Johnny Cupcakes” t-shirt for himself just for fun. Little did he know that it would be the start of a multi-million dollar company.

Johnny Cupcakes gained an almost cult following. As the business grew so did the customer base and soon he outgrew the attic in his parents’ home and set up shop down the street in his hometown of Hull, Mass. As time passed, he learned the “ins and outs” of owning a business: how to present a professional image, how to spread the word, how to keep the customer wanting more, and how to produce a quality product.

On the eve of opening his first store in Boston, on Newbury Street, more than 400 people were lined up outside the store, anxious to get inside. The store, designed like a bakery, was a hit and to this day continues to draw thousands of customers a year. Many asking “where’s the cupcakes?”

This is one of the reasons that Johnny Cupcakes has been so successful. It is a quirky brand that not everyone knows about, and that gets people talking. Johnny has put 110% into building his company and says, “I wouldn’t sell it for all the money in the world.” Johnny has turned down offers from a number of investors as well as department stores like Nordstrom, Macy’s, and Urban Outfitters.

When it comes to advice for budding entrepreneurs, Johnny credits his success to remaining a “personal” brand. He has not sold out to department stores and continues to work to build his brand. It is not only his job, it is his life, his hobby. If you don’t love what you are doing you need to find something else to do,” he said.

Johnny wrapped up his presentation by taking questions from the audience. Students also had the chance to purchase his signature t-shirts at a generous discount. Johnny plans to return to Bryant in the future to continue to share the story of his success.
Sustainability Report

Continued from page 1

Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification that Bryant University would be considered a sustainable green building. By working towards this goal, we hope to prove the quality of campus life and investment in our campus. According to the LEED Building category, perhaps this could also be used to appeal to prospective and current students and encourage them to make a positive impact on the environment. Transportation was another failure according to the Report Card. However, with the option of utilizing either the BTA or the RIP shuttle, there is no reason why this category won’t be filled. By making these two options available to students, there is less incentive for each student to tarnish their GPA without making sure our opinions are heard,” she says.

As the Diversity Chair, Ami is also working closely with Shontay Delague King, Director of the Intercultural Center (ICC) to make sure that not only multicultural and international students take advantage of the ICC, but that all students know that there is a resource here at Bryant. She has started working on the leadership with the MSU and ISO to also support the smaller cultural clubs on campus and create a diversity awareness on campus. Her message to her class is as follows: “Bryant, and anything you are a part of, is a great institution that is admired and respected. As the Freshman Class Chair, Cloutier has to offer, she hopes her classmates are well acquainted with her sister’s college. With that he has one more message for those interested, “Keep your grades in mind, but don’t forget to have fun and enjoy your four years. It is always a good idea to make new friends and to be involved with SPB, Bryant Helps, and your campus organizations.”

New Senators

Continued from page 3

Jason Fortin of Pomfret, CT was very involved at Woodstock Academy and has that spirit to Bryant. He served on the Student Council, as Treasurer of his graduating class and President of the Modern Language Club which is a member of both the National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society. Now a resource for the Student Alumni Association, Honors Program, plays intramural sports, and is a member of the Student Programming Board (SPB). His involvements in high school were the reasons why he chose to run for Senate.

Fordin says he “enjoyed being a liaison between students and teachers. I also did a lot of good work here in school. I was a very good student.” The networking skills he gained are surely going to come in handy in communication with his fellow classmates. Within Senate, Dhara is the Co-Chair for Community Service and the IT Chair, working on wireless connection problems dorms and study lounges. Fordin’s goals are simple, to let the student body know that they have the opportunity to do something that will affect change, unlike in high school where many students were not able to do so.

“I want [the students] to see me as an asset. I want I want to work with my class to do what they think is best. I am a representative,” he says, “and I want to portray them as an orderly student not cooperating with the law.”

With that he has one more message for those interested, “Keep your grades in mind, but don’t forget to have fun and enjoy your four years. It is always a good idea to make new friends and to be involved with SPB, Bryant Helps, and your campus organizations.”

Ami and Dhara Shah may look alike (they are twins) but they have different ideas on how they are going to effect change and leave their mark on Bryant University. Attending Lincoln High in Lincoln, RI, Ami and Dhara were involved in school activities as well as in their community. They both worked in the Writing and Math Tutoring Center, Ami as a Supervisor and Dhara as a Coordinator. As a part of the Rhode Island Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Ami served as the Social Chair and Dhara the Historian and Secretary. Dhara was also very involved in two young ladies have high ambitions and a long journey. Together and individually, these two Chair and Dhara the Historian and Secretary. Ami as a Supervisor and Dhara were very involved in school activities. When the University was evaluated, there existed the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO). Advised by Dr. Gaytha Lansford, the Student Programming Board, the Writing and Math Tutoring Center, the ECO was formed and that was the start of a new organization aimed to raise environmental awareness and implement change not only on a student but an administrative level as well. Unfortunately, the organization dissolved last semester.

So what now? It is our responsibility as members of the Bryant community to do our part to redress the time out of our day to write a letter or make a call to the Sustainable Endowments Institute; contact information can be found at www.greenreport.org. Let them know that you are a proud citizen. This is not something that only few students in our university do. Why? You! And of course, here are a few tips on how to make a difference everyday: Wishing you all the best on how to go about buying your water bottle, be sure to change the temperature setting on the washer to cold before you wash your clothes.

Speaking of laundry, save energy and save an average of up to $5.00 a month by investing in a drying rack. Rather than taking multiple trips to the Laundry, buy a pitcher with a filter and a larger water bottle. In the long run, it is much cheaper and you will reduce the amount of plastic we use.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Send free email to mbhunot@bryant.edu.

Register Today
www.bryantarchway.com
Give a damn

DPS LOG

VANDALISM (Residence) SEP 29 2008-Monday at 09:33 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of a broken window.

LARCEY SEP 28 2008-Monday at 17:48 Location: TOWNSHCE HALL Summary: A report of a stolen cell phone.

EMT CALL Medical Services Rendered SEP 30 2008-Tuesday at 02:35 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of a person having an asthma attack.

EMT CALL Medical Services Rendered OCT 1 2008-Wednesday at 02:31 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of a person having a sexual and emotional pain.

FIRE ALARM OCT 2 2008-Thursday at 03:24 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A malicious fire alarm due to an expelled fire extinguisher.

EMT CALL Medical Services Rendered OCT 3 2008-Friday at 20:30 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of an intoxicated male. EMS was activated.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT Disorderly Conduct OCT 5 2008-Sunday at 03:30 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of a person unraveled.

VANDALISM OCT 5 2008-Sunday at 01:52 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of a broken window and torn ceiling tiles.

ACCIDENT Leaving the Scene / Unattended Vehicle OCT 6 2008-Thursday at 14:00 Location: TOWNHOUSE VILLAGE Summary: A student reported damage to her motor vehicle.

LARCENY OCT 5 2008-Sunday at 19:40 Location: RESIDENCE HALL Summary: A report of stolen items from a student’s room.

BIA INCIDENTS None Reported

To report a bias incident or hate crime, go to www.bryant.edu/bias or call the Bias Incident Hotline at x6920

Bias related incident – a threatened, attempted, or completed action that is motivated by bigotry and bias regarding a person’s or group’s real or perceived race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender status. Examples of these incidents include name calling, offensive language, acts, and other behavior.

REMINDER: All vehicles must be registered on campus! Avoid the expense of being ticketed and towed—Register your car today!
Study Abroad Spotlight: Christopher Desmarais

Name: Christopher Desmarais
Class of: 2009
University: University of Edinburgh
Location: Edinburgh, Scotland
Partner: Aracdia University
Semester Address: Spring, 2008
Duration: 5 Months

Reason for going:
I took part in the Sophomore Internation Study Abroad to Russia in 2007, and once I came back I had a whole new glob- alized perspective on things. Spending a semester abroad just seemed to make sense when I thought about the path I wanted to take in life.

Best experience/memory:
We had about 6 weeks of free time be- tween classes ending and finals starting, so we took advantage of the backpacking tour of Europe. It was such a great experience, it immediately started to make me think about my future career.

Funacl cultural experience:
Scotland is well known for two things; its love of golf and its love of pubs. So one night we were introduced to pub golf! Everyone needed to dress in full golf attire and go from pub to pub trying to “make par” at each “hole”. In the beginning we were a bit skeptical walking through the city streets at night wearing bright purple sweater vests. You had to figure out the details on your own, but by the end of the night, we were having too much fun to care!

How was the school different from Bryant Univer- sity?
The UK school system is set up very differently. On top of being placed in classes with full time students, we were treated as students there to study, not just single semester students. The Scottish also teach almost entirely in lectures, and an immense amount of outside preparation was required. And our final exams were worth 80% of our grade!

How did this experience change you?
Living and traveling abroad gave me a different perspective on life. America is called a cultural mixing pot but you don’t really realize just what culture means until you travel and see different cultures occur in such a small area, and at the same time try- ing to understand the immense amount of history and pride behind each. As a result, my ambitions, career choice, and even entire view on life has been greatly influenced by my experiences abroad.

Would you study abroad again given the opportu- nity?
I always reminisce with friends from overseas, as it always fun to talk about the things we were there, it was like a dream; all the pieces of a puzzle fitting together perfectly if you will. Absolutely I would do it again.

Spotlight on Interns: Michael Mullane

Intern: Michael Mullane
Clarity: 3rd
Concentration: Management
Minor: International Business
Internship Site: 6th District Court of RI
Location: Providence, RI, Summer 2009

How did you locate your internship?
I found the RI State Internship Pro- gram just through an Internet search – I was looking for a state internship, the link came up and I read it and then just took initiative to follow through in ap- plying for it and then went for an inter- view. Originally I wanted something more related to management but there were few, I did look at the RI Economic Development Corporation but after re- viewing it didn’t think I’d like that so I pursued more legal opportunities.

Once I got into the process I was told about a Judge Higgins in Criminal Ar- raignment who was offering an intern- ship. I would recommend this experience to anyone who’d like to know about legal career and the options available to them. I’m President of Legal Society and this experience will also help the association in the upcoming months.

What did you learn about the profes- sion?
Law and order doesn’t always equal justice. You could have husband and wife with a dispute and they have a no contact order but until that’s vacated there’s no way to work with their clerk so that can cause scheduling issues.

Everyone is given an equal shot at the system: if someone doesn’t speak English everything waits until a trans- lator is available so that person under- stands their rights; everyone is afforded an attorney.

The court system works at its own pace whether it’s efficient or not be- cause with the severity of the various allegations that come through a judge needs to have a fresh mind to make sure everyone gets a fair trial even if the slower pace costs taxpayers money. I’m not sure if it’s cost effective but it’s an industry where everyone needs fair and unbiased treatment.

Certain judges may favor certain at- torneys: if the judge knows and/or likes a certain attorney their case might be heard earlier in the morning or there may be favoritism towards setting bail. Matters with prior crimes are also heard before matters by people representing themselves - self-representing individ- uals may have to wait all day.

Court ends at 4pm and the judges make sure to get out on time. It is a very stressful industry from a judge’s standpoint – they start day to day at 100 cases and have to get them all out by a certain time – they also see repeat offenders everyday that don’t seem discouraged by the way the country is going and the crime rates and can’t give correct ‘justice’ all the time because prisons are so over crowded so may have to give sus- pended sentences.

Sherrifs worry about their safety everyday – especially in arraignment court; someone could be arrested one night and be free the next day and have to have the charges brought up against them so a sheriff may worry about personal attacks even when just walking outside to get lunch!

What were your major responsibili- ties?
My role was observational analysis of the different cases that came in. That involved attending arraignment court and hearing criminal cases – you could hear between 80 and 100 per day. I ob- served cases involving as typical 1st degree rape and murder, simple as- sault, drugs, and violation of banking laws.

I dealt with the arraignment calen- der, reviewing it and the case facts, notes of basic facts and ruling of judge; if the case wasn’t settled I’d settle down the date to follow, the pretrial and then trial. I analyzed sub-section of cases and did weekly write-ups on the cases I found interesting.

After the arraignment calendar passed I’d sit in small claims court, criminal trials, and worker’s compensa- tion cases. I spoke with many judges and heard closed doors and was able to discuss the cases with the attorneys when necessary.

We learned the thought process how they analyzed cases.

What did you find most challenging about your internship?
I have good analytical skills and I’ve been working with others when I get into the real world – especially in arraignment court; someone could be arrested one night and be free the next day but still have to have the charges brought up against them so a sheriff may worry about personal attacks even when just walking outside to get lunch!

between a first offender, repeat offender, etc and understand the different sen- tences and Rhode Island general laws that go along with different crimes. For example, there are eight subsections to a disorderly conduct – you need to know what the law is and apply it cor- rectly and analyze why one sentence is better then another for a certain crime.

What did you find most rewarding about your internship?
The contacts I made from all the net- working, I established contacts with many judges who could write me rec- ommendations. Since I’d like to be a corporate attorney being in the court- room for the summer I hope to get letters of rec from many judges who could write me rec- ommendations. Since I’d like to be a corporate attorney being in the court- room for the summer I hope to get letters of rec from many judges who could write me rec-

In terms of careers, I’ve always wanted to be an attorney but by seeing the criminal court for the summer I learned I would prefer to do corporate and/or litigation law then criminal be- cause I want to co-mingle my business education with my legal education and by pursuing corporate law I can have the best of both. However, law is defi- nitely the direction I want to head in and this was a steppingstone in getting there.

Did you receive compensation for your Academic internship?
Yes

Who was your faculty supervisor and what were your academic require- ments?
Dr. Boggio in the Management de- partment. I emailed Professor Boggio regularly and had to do a weekly analy- sis of the number of cases, add a running total to the previous week. We also had to do research on summer internships and the requirements. The answers were based on a cumulative portfolio and final evalua- tion section that is 45 pages.

Winter break is an excellent time to do research on summer internships and jobs. The Amica Career for Career Ed- ucation will be open during the break and students are welcome to use the Career Library and/or meet with a ca- reer counselor during this time. Stop in to make an appointment or give us a call at 401-332-6490.
The Business of Going Green

By Candice Burke
Staff Writer

Businesses today are dealing with the rising price of our non-renewable resources like oil and coal, and the result of this is a heavier burden on the consumer’s pocket in an unstable market. Businesses are now spending the majority of its energy research funds on non-renewable resources, $427 million dollars in 2008, and $139 million dollars spent researching what is our most valuable energy resource, the sun. In a single day enough energy can be harvested from the sun to provide the entire world with more than enough energy to last an entire year. If these businesses focus on our government funds in areas where there is no future, literally. Coal and oil are considered non-renewable resources, because while the world will naturally replenish itself of both these goods it will take millions of years and won’t be beneficial to the human race, and as we are currently using these fuels at an unsustainable rate they will be gone sometime in the close future.

The average rate of research solar energy won’t be affordable for quite some time in the majority of the United States, but countries overseas are investing in the amazing power of the sun and reaping the benefits both financially and environmentally. The prospective benefits can be seen in the 6 cent per kwh cost of the energy solar cells generate in places like California and the state of Germany where every one of us.

- Credit Records – All of your bank accounts
- Personal Information – Your name, address, phone number, and social security number
- Employment Information
- Credit card accounts and loans, with the corresponding balances, payments, and monthly balances
- Marital Information
- Public Information – Any court records which include bankruptcy or money settlements
- Recent Requests – All those who have recently obtained copies of your credit report within the past year.

From your credit report, a credit rating is drawn, which is seen by banks, employers, insurance companies, government agencies, and anybody who has a business need to see your information, such as a landlord or a cell phone company. Your credit score directly affects your ability to take out loans, to apply for credit cards, purchase a cell phone plan or car, and even rent an apartment. Your credit is very important as it will be carried with you for the rest of your life. A good credit score will help you receive loans, be approved for credit, and be trusted more financially. A poor credit score can affect many of your financial opportunities. A poor credit score may impede you from numerous aspects of your adult life.

- Budget – take control of your money and record your expenses
- Pay On Time – Pay at least the minimum balance on your credit card every month and do not skip payments. However if possible pay off the whole balance, or most of the balance
- Do not spend over your credit limit – Going over your credit limit will cause you to not just lower your credit score, but also the credit card company will tack you for overage costs that will put you more in debt.
- Do not take out excess credit cards – We all see the free gifts and discounts you can get if you apply for a credit card, do not have credit cards that you do not plan on using.
- Obtain a credit report – You are entitled to receive a free credit report every 12 months from the major nationwide consumer credit reporting companies, such as Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. Use these to make sure your credit report is accurate and to maintain your credit. If you discover an error, be sure to contact the consumer credit reporting agency immediately, as there are sometimes mistakes on credit reports.

Did you know?

Farmers market comes to Providence

By Maddie Archambault
Staff Writer

What began as a research project at Brown University has become the first year-round farmers market in Rhode Island. Located in downtown Providence, Fresh RI keeps local farmers working hard to produce enough of their products to last through the winter. The growing demand for fresh and local produce is a movement that is turning around the 8% decline that Rhode Island has seen in farms since the 1900s.

The market in Providence made it through its first winter in 2008 with demand as high as ever. Products included: apples, freshly roasted coffee, homemade chocolate, jams and jellies from locally grown fruit, fresh oysters, meat and eggs, and even special seasonal products. They have Christmas trees, broccoli, and cauliflower in December. Maple syrup in March and offer asparagus in April. Most farmers markets do not allow any non-local goods but, because last year was an experience for many relatives of Rhode Island farmers’ shipped products like heirloom beans from Maine and beets from a small farm in Florida. Customers were more than happy to buy fresh citrus products in the winter when they are usually only available in larger stores, or online. The market doesn’t only have food. The atmosphere is enhanced with your chefs from Johnson & Whales University and also live bands.

The market is open every Saturday from 12-3 and located on 115 Centre Street in Providence. During its first winter last year the market maintained at least a 300 customer turnout each weekend that it was open. Buyers got to meet the farmers and artisans who were growing their food and maintain relationships with these people, making shopping a personal and experience rather than a chore. These types of ventures are finally granting access to quality food and a price that isn’t much higher than one would pay in the supermarket for something that was grown and shipped halfway across the world. Fresh RI brings together at least the same community that is growing and buying from vendors and farmers for the produce.

Farm Fresh RI
The season of a lifetime

While the storm of criticism surrounding Bryant's move to Division I Athletics circled, the 2008 Women’s Volleyball team was busy putting together the most influential season in program history.

By David Giardino
Sports Editor

When Bryant University first announced the transition to Division I Athletics about one year ago, controversy arose over many of the programs’ readiness to compete at the next level. But through the speculation and condemnation, the women’s volleyball team quietly has put together the most complete season in Division I athletics of any Bryant University athletic program.

In 2007, the squad finished 18-2 down the stretch in their first foray into the Northeast-10 Conference, the Division II athletic conference Bryant had called home for years. In 2008, the squad finished undefeated (14-0) in conference play and won their final NEC tournament championship.

The Bulldogs, like all programs after the announcement, were met with a myriad of criticism going into the 2008 season. The Bulldogs responded by winning 8 of their first 10 games this year, all on the road, with wins against the likes of Providence College, St. Francis, Sacred Heart, and Holy Cross (twice). While some Bryant programs have brutally suffered this fall, the women’s volleyball team has been the ultimate success story.

A key to the team’s 2008 success has been the performance of its newcomers. Freshmen Maria Scocca and Hilary Andrews lead the Bulldogs in kills, with nearly 400 combined. Sophomore setter Miranda Kolb was instrumental to her team’s victory in the Crusader Classic. Kolb’s 43 assists and 13 digs against Holy Cross in the second contest of that tournament earned her all-tournament accolades.

Sophomore Miranda Kolb and the 2008 women’s volleyball squad has survived a storm of criticism and put together one of the most influential seasons in program history.

Club Spotlight: Men’s Rugby

By Matthew Kane
Staff Writer

The Bryant Men’s Rugby Club (1-2) posted its first win of the season this Sunday, defeating the visiting Mass Maritime Buccaneers (0-2-1) 40-0.

Bryant, which had lost its first two games of the season, now needed to win by a large point differential on Sunday in order to stay in contention for a playoff spot and a shot at a national title. As Coach Eric Catalozzi put it, Bryant could not afford to just win games; they had to win big.

And that’s exactly what they did. The scoring was frequent, as Bryant controlled the tempo and methodically moved the ball inside Mass Maritime territory, preventing the Buccaneers from running an effective offense. Little more than five minutes into the game, Jameson Anderson, inside center and current co-captain, scored the game’s first try on a crash play on Mass Maritime’s goal line.

However, perhaps the star of the game was flanker Michael Monaghan, who in addition to scoring two tries, made several key tackles and took advantage of a crucial Buccaneer mistake. With their backs to the goal line, the Buccaneers punted the ball expecting it to travel out of bounds, thus advancing themselves further down the field. Yet the ball never reached its intended destination and Monaghan returned the kick past the on-guard Buccaneers, scoring in the process.

Leading 28-0 at the half, Bryant subdued out a majority of their A-side players, allowing some of their more inexperienced teammates an opportunity to play in a live game. The offensive onslaught continued and was capped by rookie Ian Taylor’s first try.

Bryant University Men’s Rugby will continue its bid for a playoff berth against Roger Williams (1-0-1) next Saturday.

A year on the road

By Mike Cronin Jr.
Staff Writer

The Bryant University Men’s Soccer team (1-3-1) has not played at Bulldog Stadium that often this year. In fact, they have only played one game at home this year; a 2-0 loss in a hard fought battle against Long Island University (5-4). The 2008 season has been a rough one for the Bulldogs, who have played 12 games on the road so far against tough Division I opponents.

The lone win was a 2-0 win versus the University of Richmond, in which senior captain Manny Rodriguez and freshman Ben Mello each scored a goal. The Bulldogs have been led this year by the two senior captains: Manny Rodriguez and Matthew Brown.

Rodriguez, the Midfielder from North Branford, CT, and Brown, the Forward from South Easton, MA have started in all 13 games and have kept the team together and spirits high on the road. Currently, Rodriguez has 14 goals and 30 points, and Brown has 11 goals and 25 points in their respective careers. Brown led the Bulldogs in points in the 2007 season with 15 points and 7 goals, and the Bulldogs finished with a record of 11-7-1. In front of the net, Junior Noel Black has started 18 games and has 33 saves and one shut-out.

Looking ahead, the Bulldogs face fierce competition this week in their final three games of the season on the road against Brown, Providence College, and University at Albany. Bryant hopes to finish off the first Division I season strong, and next year will heavily rely on the 14 freshmen who are on the team this year.

Through veteran leadership, the guidance of head coach Seamus Purcell, and the promise of another excellent recruiting class, look for the Bryant Bulldogs to make a comeback next year.
Bullies back in action against Marist

By Casey Mulcare
Assistant Sports Editor

Bryant University football gets back into gear this Saturday as the Bulldogs take on the Red Foxes of Marist under the lights in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The Bulldogs look to extend their Division I-AA win streak after beating Wagner 24-14 two weeks ago. Marist looks to add to its disappointing 1-5 record and winless home streak.

Many would ask what is leading to the success of Bryant football in this first transition year into Division I, a season which many thought would be a tough one for Bryant at all sports. The Bulldogs are simply playing solid football. The running tandem of Jerell Smith and Lindsey Gamble has proven to be a battle tested weapon for Coach Fine this season.

Both talented backs have eclipsed the 1,200 career rushing yard milestone this season, currently with 1,235 and 1,295 yards, respectively. Senior quarterback Jay Graber has impressed with every game, managing the game and his passes in his first season with the Bulldogs. Also standing out is the impressive line play for Bryant, led by senior guard Alex Grande.

Whyte, Bryce Martinez, and freshman Samad Wagstaff lead a unit that has picked off 11 balls in just four games. Wagstaff has 5 of those interceptions in his name, one shy of tying the all-time record for most interceptions in a season with 6. Mostly, the unit flies to the ball and gives their offense plenty of chances to score. Did I mention they have only allowed 1 lone field goal this season? The 3-2 Marist team that is 0-4 at home and trails Bryant in almost every statistical category. With this said, Bryant needs to be wary and out to a trap, for Marist will be looking to prove that Bryant is not yet ready to be a team.

Bryant will then return to Bulldog Stadium for Parents and Family Weekend to face Robert Morris on the 18th. Tune into WOON-AM 1240 for the game and WJMF 88.7 FM for all home contests.

Men's Tennis claims first D1 dual match win

The Bryant University men's tennis team lost just two matches as they defeated Hofstra 5-2 Saturday afternoon at the Bryant Tennis Complex. In their only home match of the season, the Bulldogs defended their home court by sweeping the doubles competition. Cristian Balestri and Kevin Gardner defeated Senior Tsvetan Tzvetkov and Tijus Stjeminovic, 8-6.

Jose Rodriguez and Tom Nowak followed suit by defeating Neand Radakovic and Matev Wacks by the same 8-6 final. In the singles competition, Balestri and Gardner played a phenomenal match, defeating Neand Radakovic in first singles 6-3, 6-2. Nowak and Kevin Gardner also saw Marist with both wins, with Hill sweeping a match against Eric Gladstone, 6-0, 6-0. Rodriguez and Nowak both lost in extremely hard fought matches with Rodriguez falling in a third set tiebreaker, and Nowak losing in a first set tiebreaker.
A new breed of ignorance

Presenting the most controversial arguments in the NFL today - and their unpopular truths

By David Giardino
Sports Editor

Marin Williams has been, and will be, a more valuable player than Reggie Bush. The Texans' controversial move to name Williams their No.1 pick two seasons ago may seem like the wrong choice: what with the Saints making a championship game appearance in Bush's first season and the Texans still searching for that elusive playoff appearance. But consider the facts. Bush's rookie season produced few memorable highlight clips, 3 rushing touchdowns, and a longest run from scrimmage of 18 yards – hardly dynamic. Bush's size and inability to run between the tackles will forever hinder his usefulness in the league. No one questions his ability with the ball in open space – but these types of players are generally destined to be punt returners and 3rd down running backs – which Bush currently is. And of course there is the fact that a premiere running back is the most overrated "necessity" in pro football, but that's an argument for a different time.

In places, on the other hand, transformed the Texans into a respectable, at times dominating, defense. Williams accounted for about half of his team's sacks total last year, by far the biggest individual percentage in the league. The Texans' 8-8 season marked the first non-losing season for the young franchise.

Just ask the Saints themselves the importance of drafting a game-changing defender. They elected to select running back George Rogers No.1 overall in the 1981 draft. Don't remember him? Perhaps you've heard of the No.2 pick that year. Lawrence Taylor. Now this isn't saying Williams is the next LT. But if the Texans perceived that his presence could transform the defense into a playoff-caliber unit, the pick is certainly justified.

The NFL's east coast bias prevents west coast teams from winning. Need proof? Just look at the schedule games objectively - it is a system fraught on ratings, greed, and money. And it just so happens the most powerful and influential franchises and contributors predominantly reside in the arrogant, egocentric 3-1-5 corridor. In the coming years, Tom Brady's presence will only hurt the Patriots. Brady's NFL legacy in recent years has transformed from the twinkle-eyed game manager with a flair for the dramatic to one of the best pure quarterbacks in league history. Too bad all his work only hinders his team. In Brady's first four seasons he averaged 3,480 passing yards and 24 touchdowns - and 5% of the time, he was bringing home Lombardi trophies. The offense was a balance of run and pass (60-40 to be precise) and a dynasty was born. But in 2006, the Patriots' front office let their offense, signing essentially every big name free agents: a receiving core with a reputation of disappearing in big games, a coach with a knack for making timely mistakes, a quarterback with a forgetfulness regarding the importance of tackling. Stir until frothy.

"The NFL does not schedule games objectively - it is a system fraught on ratings, greed, and money." - Jason Thresher

Jason Thresher
Year: Junior
Sport: Golf

Jones' on-going feud for control with ex-Cowboys coach Bill Parcells persuaded him to hire a personal doorman in Wade Phillips, whose player-friendly, winning approach has guided him to a 0-4 postsea- son record. Of course, his disappointing playoff record is just the tip of the Dallas iceberg (Romo 0-2; Owens 4-5). Frankly, Jones has never won without employing a coach he seemingly hated (see Johnson, Jimmy) – and with his level of control in the day-to-day operations of this football team, the Cowboys are long from putting a squad on the field with an intimate championship hopes.

The worst team with the best chance of winning a Super Bowl anytime soon: The Miami Dolphins. Sure, they have seen the last fly of a bird stock of the league for the last five seasons. But do not underestimate the importance of a new front office (with GM Bill Parcells) and a new coach, and a new personality. Parcells has proven time and time again that he can transform a bottom-dwellers into competitive, if not championship-caliber, teams. And don't overlook head coach Tony Sparano – he is part of a Parcells coaching tree that has 6 Super Bowl titles under its limbs.

Presenting the most controversial arguments in the NFL today - and their unpopular truths

Kaitlyn Hinck
Year: Freshman
Sport: Soccer

Hinck scored two goals including the game-winner to lead the women's soccer team to a 3-2 win over Wagner College last Sunday. She leads the team with four goals.
Students Speak Out

What is your favorite fall activity?

“Apple Picking.” Nicole Cody ‘11

“Football.” Brian Balkam ‘11

“Pumpkin Picking.” Christy Talmont ‘11

“Apple Cider Doughnuts.” Michelle Lynn ‘09

“Dressing up and trick or treating.” Harry Poulos ‘11

“Football!” Jake Meyers ‘09

“My favorite thing to do is apple picking.” Michelle DiLuzio ‘09

“I enjoy raking leaves in the fall.” Troy DeMaio ‘11

Compiled by Ashley McNamara and Amanda Dunn
Nine Kids Abandoned at the Hospital

By: Michael Adams

If you read the papers and pay attention to the news, you should have probably heard about the Nebraska man who left his nine kids off at a local hospital, leaving his kids, ages 1 to 17, abandoned in the lobby.

Gary Staton’s wife died last month, and shortly after her newborn came into this world. Basically, the father cradled the burden of parenting, and worried how he could do it himself. He had to quit his job which meant he could not pay rent or utilities. In addition, the couple were child for child neglect.

Their oldest daughter (as quoted in her high school newspaper during her younger siblings) Now, you might be wondering how was this man able to do this. Nebraska passed the Safe Haven Law in 2001, which states that children under 19 may be left at any state hospital if they are in immediate danger, with no charges to the parents.

Now, with this occurrence, and a couple of others under their belt, Nebraska is looking to amend the Safe Haven Law to clearly state that the law supports only newborn children that are in immediate danger. That’s a good idea, Nebraska. Why didn’t you do that in the first place when you were writing the actual law?

Now, back to the father of nine children. First of all, what was his motive? It’s tough to be a single parent to even one child, let alone nine. And if I can only imagine the conversation in the van on the way to the hospital. The dad just wanted out, crumbled, and took his kids to the only place he could think of: Now, think of the emotional trauma put on these kids. The 17 year old is back at the command post taking care of her siblings, and now she has a clan in living in under the same roof? What a nightmare.

Is dropping your kids off at the hospital really the last resort? You’ve seen the movie idea what to do with your nine offspring, so bring them to the department of social services. They come together when this happens, but I guess if your child neglect charge has spread through town

On another point, were these kids really in immediate danger? I guess I have a skewed definition of what that means. I would think that if you brought your child to the hospital all mal-nourished with torn clothes, and a bloody knuckle, that that would be immediate danger. This just seems like the dad was cracking and he was all set to do some serious rewording to your Safe Haven Law.

Multipartisan Hackery: Salary Caps

Republican ‘Salary Cap’

By Matt Vincunas

From now on everyone has heard about the Paulson Plan. The 700 billion dollar, Wall Street, Main Street bailout plan. Many people are still debating the necessity of this plan or whether it is the end of capitalism as we know it, with Mr. Obama smiling in the latter. Not only does the plan include a lot of money, it is also littered with a lot of clauses such as raising the FDIC insured limit to $250,000 and more oversight of the financial industry. Perhaps the most important and controversial clause of this bill (besides the sheer amount of money) is the golden parachutes. Golden parachutes are another way of saying extremely generous executive compensation. When a CEO resigns, or is fired, the company compensates that executive with cash because they are not subject to redistribute wealth. In light of this financial crisis, many people have seen how unjustly the CEO’s of companies such as Washington Mutual, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been compensated. In 2007, the CEO of Washington Mutual, their CEO Dan10, was paid around 20 million dollars for doing absolutely nothing.

Thought I do agree with the limit of executive pay for unworthy CEO’s, there cannot be limits for the executives of our country’s well run companies acting in good faith.

Our country thrives off of entrepreneurial spirit and the dreams of wealth and success. Salary capping perhaps the most productive and profitable people in America. You in turn kill all the passion for wealth and success in this country. Many people are satisfied with making just enough money to get by, just enough to feed their family and have the necessities. You cannot punish the majority of business owners because of the actions of a minority. By limiting the pay of executives you are effectively telling people that there is no need for you to be that smart, to study and work that hard. Your job should never be all about the money, but if I work harder, and bring home more money, I expect to be considered more important than that person. No two people are made alike, therefore they should both not be paid alike.

Barack Hussein Obama and his running mate Joe Biden are exactly the kind of socialists this country is not used to. Barack Kovacs breaks for 95 percent of Americans, the only problem is he was voted consistently to raise taxes on people who make more than 42,000 dollars. His partner in crime, Joe Biden who was quoted that if you pay more taxes you should view it as “more patriotic.” This statement is totally contradictory of how this country functions. This is not “business as usual.” Decreases and leech off the government should become responsible citizens and contribute to the greatness of our country. The people who have studied hard, worked hard, and contributed most to America have already showed us that people like Joe Biden telling them that the government knows all things can spend their money better. The government should actually take lessons from our country’s rich; they obviously have more fiscal responsibility.

On a side note, Joe Biden’s mother-in-law, Bonny Jean Jacobs recently passed away. My deepest condolences to him and his family in this hard time.

A View from Afar, Far Left That Is

By Drew Green

I can foresee many individuals being put off by the notion of salary capping businessmen and women, calling it either “socialism” or “communism”. This is a totally wrong thought. This recent economic situation should act as a means of opening people’s minds to other possibilities. The 700 billion dollars that will be used by the government to alleviate the pain the financial industry has been feeling lately, is for all general purposes, a socialist form of governmental policy, drafted and signed by a conservative president nonetheless. So why do you have to do it again?

I want to know what was going through the kids’ heads when they were being driven to the hospital — especially the 17 year old. She, and probably some of her siblings (ages are not given), have the cognitive abilities to comprehend what is going on. I can only imagine the conversation in the van on the way to the hospital. The dad just wanted out, crumbled, and took his kids to the only place he could think of. Now, think of the emotional trauma put on these kids. The 17 year old is back at the command post taking care of her siblings, and now she has a clan in living in under the same roof? What a nightmare.

Scaling salaries is not so farfetched since jobs are essentially already scaled based upon type and experience, e.g. a brain surgeon makes more than a janitor. What needs to be done to expand upon this is set an upper limit of a person’s yearly salary. Let’s say a “rich” one year salary would be one million dollars. And as a baseline point we will consider a “wealthy” person’s salary to be $100,000 (these would be indexed so they could change with inflation).

Now, the next thing you need define is what gives someone a salary of $100,000, which gives people at higher salaries to be willing to sacrifice their jobs at this astronomical pay cut. Within this bracket of wealth would be a scale system whereby a large portion of the top level executive’s salaries would be held by over companies within specialized accounts. The confusing part about this is that people would need to get “paid” at a level that is similar to today but only receive a portion of that salary if they fall between the two outlined extremes. This is to make sure companies do not become unethical profit from this policy by saying that the actual value of work is “X” amount of dollars, when really, by today’s standards, it is “Y”. To create this new salary a proportion system would be implemented whereby the proportion the pay would be for individuals, and what the value, “Z”, would go to the company. In this case, “X” would be scaled down in such a way that the proportion the pay would be to the company would be equal to the proportion of their “Y” salary lost.

This would set up a redefined pension plan system within the company that act as a compensated Medicare and Social Security system, in which the distribution is top down. Those at the top can use it first when needed, and then it will work its way down the line. Think of it as a large pyramid, there are less people at the top who put in more, but need less. Those at the bottom need more simply because they’re there, but not as much. So if you fall off this pay scale is that when they need the money they essentially have an unlimited amount to draw from. Statistics are published every year which is that a person at the top level would take up all these funds is insignificant of the relatively small number of individuals. This means money will trickle down lower. This keeps wealth from being taken from such accounts by things like workers compensation. People that fall beneath the $100,000 level would not be able to take advantage of these augidwyzributes, but they still have the actual Medicare and Social Security system to fall back on.

There is the question of why something like this would be done? People will argue that it is the American Dream to make it big, but I suggest it is not to go buy an island in the Caribbean. Yes, that sounds like a nice life, and yes I will agree the perks of having that kind of money seem essentially endless. However, the gluttony of that kind of wealth is disgusting in my mind. A person does not need to have billions of dollars between salaries and stock options. Plenty of people live good lives with a lower pay, and still manage to make it by and be happy.
The Winks and the “you betchas" Heard Round the World

By Toby Simon
Staff Columnist

Full disclosure: I am an Obama supporter so I realize my opinion of the VP debate might not sit well with some. I am also a hockey mom--or was many years ago.

Following the disastrous series of interviews with Katie Couric which even many conservative Republicans' underwear in a knot, the debate was going to be Sarah Palin's moment to show us she had the right stuff. That she was ready to be President Palin at a moment's notice. That she really does have a high IQ, despite the Supreme Court decision. That she does read the Mat-Su Valley Daily's daily paper.

For 2 weeks prior to the debates America tuned in to Katie Couric's interviews. Palin's defenders (and there are many) claim it was once again a game of "gotha" journalism. I challenge these people to explain why asking a vice presidential candidate which newspapers she reads is a game of "gotha". Or how asking a candidate to talk about Supreme Court decisions that were troublesome to her is an unfair question. Or how the specifics of John McCain's record have been criticized for some of my bolder comments, which is to be expected. I don't take offense as a result of the critical comments, but rather use them to question my own beliefs about the world. I hope that others will do the same. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of these criticisms directly and explain why I write this column.

My most frequently received criticism is due to a statement in my first column that said Islam is hardly a religion of peace. What these critics always fail to point out is that I stated that Islam has many peaceful elements and there are many peaceful Muslims throughout the world. I would never deny that there are millions of Muslims around the world who love peace in their hearts. However, any time thousands of people use a system of beliefs as inspiration to join the largest terrorist organization in the world, one would think that belief-system is disqualified from being called one of peace. Surprisingly, not everyone understands that it is a well-known fact that al Qaeda committed the September 11th attacks and hundreds of other attacks as a direct result of their Islamic fundamentalist views. The Council on Foreign Relations described al Qaeda's goal as to "rid Muslim countries of what they see as the profane influence of the West and re-place their governments with fundamental Islamic regimes." Al Qaeda believes, however, is in fact more than twenty terrorist groups who exist merely as a result of their Sunni Islamic beliefs. Of course, there is also the argument that those who support terrorism are simply a misinterpretation of the beliefs. It seems that it is not only my readers who feel this way, but many, many readers may be offended. This is an opportunity for me to address some of the most shameless passages as well. If you want to read some of the most shameful things ever written, go no further than the Koran and Deuteronomism.

Christianity and Judaism, however, have been modernized to an extent that those who support terror recognize a rather tolerant beliefs about the world and individuals, a society, and as a world. I am simply arguing that we love hatefulness, even if those beliefs also does not. We do not hesitate to criticize one another for other beliefs, such as political ideology, fashion taste, or eating habits. Listen to a group of people talk sometime and count the number of times criticisms arise in conversation. You will likely find that humans cannot last long without criticizing one another.

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A Secular Persepctive: A Response to My Critics

By Brandon Dobro
Staff Writer

It’s no secret that as a result of writing this religious-themed column I have been criticized for some of my bolder comments, which is to be expected. I don’t take offense as a result of the critical comments, but rather use them as a tool to question my own beliefs about the world. I hope that others will do the same. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of these criticisms directly and explain why I write this column.

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Observations

Compiled by Michael Adams, Cattie Faley, and Casey Mulcare

McD’s Strategic Placement

We couldn’t help but notice that days after Morgan Spurlock came to speak, McDonald’s decides to throw in an insert to The Archway. How ironic!

Strawberries Galore

Thank you, Sodexo, for upping the strawberry cupcake to at least $2.20. No more expensive fruit cups. Now it’s definitely worth the over $4 price tag.

Bentley is now a University

And to think we needed another BU within a 50 mile radius.

No Sunday Coffee Run in the Library

We don’t know why the cafe in the library is closed on Sunday since most students do their work then. Sodexo is missing out on some big bucks.

Lights are Almost Out

A small reflection on the bulb on the path towards the library that flashes on and off every three minutes. That would be grand.

Bryant Said What?

“We were walking back from our meeting, and I just happened to fall on my butt in front of two gorgeous boys, and I was wearing high heels carrying a lot of stuff.”

“You know what? I can’t even stand water going up my nose. I could never do cocaine!”

“If you pay $30 will you steal a goose?”

“I can’t do this anymore. It’s awful down there.”

“That’s what she said.

“I don’t even know if there’s a road through Central America.”

“I would do it, but the only thing that scares me is the death rate.”

“You never want to catch the editor with his pants down.”

“Hey guys, ever wonder if we could catch a squirrel by its tail?”

The fall has already taken place in front of Hall 15.

Heard a funny quote? E-mail it to madams@bryant.edu.

Let’s Get Married

Bryant community members can now be married at the Student Center. For more information, contact the Student Center.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Mr. Drew Green’s article concerning Mr. Barack Obama’s prosed education tax credit, whereby any individual who is willing to sacrifice 100 hours of their time is rewarded with a friendly check for $4,000. Aside from its grammatical errors, I found Mr. Green’s article to be an over-simplified and over-glorified version of what this education incentive would truly mean for most Americans. To begin with, I have a problem with the amount of money one would sacrifice in order to earn the $4,000. For nearly all people, the $4,000 is a large time commitment when spread over the course of 365 days. It’s less than 1 hour per every 3 days. Therefore, a simple calculation will tell you that $4,000 divided by 100 hours comes to college students working for an astronomical $40.00/hr. To put that in simpler terms: More than three times the national average that full-time social workers are paid in this country. Why should “disadvantaged” college students be paid so much more, Mr. Green?

On top of this, it seems that Mr. Green has not taken the time to analyze the financial ramifications of receiving this incentive. There are over 15 million college students in America to equal to around 10% of the population, and that is a very low estimate, then we have approximately 30,000,000 students (300,000,000/10). If we then assume that only 10% of all college students take advantage of this program, the cost of the program would be $4,000,000,000/10%. Perhaps I am too fiscally conservative, but if Mr. Green truly believes our national debt needs another $12,000,000,000 hit, he can go ahead and endorse this plan. Now I may be unfairly targeting Mr. Green and Mr. Obama in my review, but I do not mean for it to be taken as an anti-Obama or, worse yet, an anti-liberal critique. In truth, I decided to not even include Mr. Obama in my review as it appears that are so meager that they are hardly worth mentioning. My chief concern is, and always will be, that political answers are never a full solution to a problem. They are only a temporary solution. By definition volunteer work is unpaid and, too often, unrewarded. To pay somebody to vote is great amount to hiring an employee to not work. They just don’t make sense together.

Sincerely,

Erin Madore

Get involved in Election ‘08

By Nicole Murphy

Staff Writer

Recently the news has been dominated by the upcoming Presidential Election. Who will win: Barack Obama or John McCain? Either way, history will be made. There will either be a black man as President for the first time in history or a woman as Vice President, also a first. In a few short weeks, life as an American will be forever changed. Don’t be fooled into believing that the elections are so distant from you. They can be right in your future if you want. There are endless ways to get involved in the election.

The most basic way to be involved would be to vote. Last Monday, November 29th, the Student Programming Board held voter registration in the Rotunda. If you haven’t registered, and you’re 18, you still have a little time. By visiting your own town or city hall you can register. Also, if you won’t be able to get home, don’t forget to sign up for a sign-up ballot on-line, visit http://www.sow beneficiation.com/votereg/vr.shtml. This site is for any eligible citizen regardless of residence. Another helpful website would be http://www.vote4democrats.com/thecenter/.

Each voice counts, each vote. Stand up for something you believe in - add to the efforts of whomever you deem worthy to run the nation.

Sincerely,

of necessities. Thank you for listening.

McD’s Strategically Placed Insert

No, Sodexo is missing out on some big bucks.

The Archway is printed by ManoNet.

Check out our website: www.bryantarchway.com
Eagle Eye

I wanted to review Eagle Eye for two reasons. First, I like Shia LaBeouf. I think he has a lot of talent and potential. Second, I knew I eventually would have to go see a movie I didn’t particularly want to see and review it objectively. Unfortunately I turned out to be right, as this is one of the most ridiculous films I have ever seen.

LaBeouf plays a twenty something year old named Jerry Shaw who is stuck in a rut. He works at a focal copy place, can barely afford to pay his rent each month, and is virtually estranged from his family. On one particularly bad day, he gets a call informing him that his brother has just died in a traffic accident. For reasons yet to be revealed, it is seemingly this event that causes him to become “activated.” Activated means that an unknown entity, only known as Eagle Eye, has contacted him, forcing him to serve their needs or face death.

The woman (played by Michelle Monaghan) winds up in the same situation as Jerry, and eventually their paths cross after a series of absurd events that almost implausibly brings them together. From here on out, the plot is an intricately complicated and laughable set of missions by the omnipotent Eagle Eye for the rest of the movie. Meanwhile, FBI agent Thomas Morgan (Billy Bob Thornton) and Air Force Special Agent Zoe Perez (Rosario Dawson) are sent to work on the case of a known terrorist threat that involves (the now fugitive) Jerry Shaw.

This alone might make for a good movie, if everything was done right and there was a solid script or writer. Sadly, none of these things exist in Eagle Eye. Despite his best effort, LaBeouf just isn’t the action hero type, and it shows throughout the whole movie. He looks like he should be in college, not holding a steady job and living on his own. Thornton also does a mediocre job; however his talent is squandered, as is Dawson’s, by their limited and laughable dialogue. Almost every scene and character back story in this movie is a complete rip-off of some other (better) movie, giving it a very generic feel throughout.

All of this may have just made Eagle Eye a bad movie, that could still be fun to watch, however Caruso (the director) made sure this wasn’t the only hindrance to the film. Rather, the worst part about this movie is the absurdity of almost everything that happens.

Characters walk away from brutal car chases, four story falls, and any other kind of bodily punishment you can imagine without a scratch. But that worked in Die Hard, so why not let it go? One thing that you can absolutely not let go is the stupidity of the amount of power the director gives to “Eagle Eye.” Since I would never tell anyone to ever go see this movie, I have a “spoiler” here: Eagle Eye (and the female voice that represents it) is actually a supercomputer that became self-aware and now can control every single electronic device/piece of equipment in the world, and seemingly everything else. It was built by the government to fight terrorism but then turned against it after ARIA (the name given to the computer) came to believe that the government needed to be exterminated. The reason for this is, not surprisingly, completely absurd as well.

If this only sounds ridiculous then I probably didn’t explain it well enough, because it’s absolutely illogical. I couldn’t help but laugh at points throughout the movie where the computer could do things such as electrocute people with power lines, or detect vibrations to hear human speech. As a matter of fact, the movie gets so absurd towards the end that I had to wonder why everyone hadn’t already left.

Unfortunately for me, I had to stick it out as not to unfairly judge the movie. What this movie could have been was an interesting study of the dangers of technology, and the potential consequences of how it is integrated into our daily lives, had it not been so ridiculous. But leave it up to Hollywood to turn a good idea into a horrible movie by overload- ing it with too much action and too little substance.

I would not recommend anyone to go and see this movie. I would recommend that they save their ten bucks and spend it on something more useful. This is by no means a good movie in any way. It was intended as an action film, but turned into a comedy the more the movie progressed. Also, at a running time of 1.5 hours, the movie is about thirty minutes too long, and it shows as the movie drags into its climax. The way past the audience’s breaking point. I gave this movie a very generous 1 out of 5 Bulldogs.

Bulldog Flicks: Eagle Eye
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Music shows.

was drama, and when there were through. You could tell when there towards the ends of songs; every note from Spain and Latin America. that was music to my ears. The first fully blended notes together in a way and high, Soler has reason to be the guitar. movement up and down the neck of long, very detailed, strings of notes towards the end. Soler was playing him. He blended international speak much. The music spoke for of few words, he did not have to man was the most brilliant guitarist I go at the last minute. It turned out to one of my professors, so I decided to Soler was ‘Incredible’

By Michael Adams

Opinion Editor

soler was highly recommended by one of my professors, so I decided to go at the last minute. It turned out to be the most incredible instrumental performance I have ever seen. Soler is a Maestro of the guitar, and that is what an understatement. This man was the most brilliant guitarist I have ever come across. Being a man of few words, he did not have to speak much. The music spoke for him. He blended international acoustic music with a nice blues style towards the end. Soler was playing very long, very detailed, strings of notes that required incredibly fast finger movement up and down the neck of the guitar.

Most songs filled with low notes and high, soler has reason to be named Poet of the Guitar. He beautify

fully blended notes together in a way that was music to my ears. The first part of the program featured songs from Spain and Latin America. Notes really close together, to notes that were very talkative. He made the statement, “I did this with only six strings. No band. No extra instru-
t. “Just you show the power that one instrument has.” He finished the performance coming to as many as twenty-five different events as you can. Soler comes from Spain and has been a star on the guitar since he was very young. He continued to perform again next year. I only hope he comes to perform again next year.

After the show, I was privileged enough to meet soler. Contrary to during the performance where Soler said a total of about eight words, he was very talkative. He made the statement, “I did this with only six strings. No band. No extra instru-
t.” Just you show the power that one instrument has.

Isaias Savio of Uruguay. The song started out with incredible rhythmic finger tapping on the body of the guit-
tar that was performed at break-neck speeds. I needed to really concentrate on his fingers to keep pace. Im-
immediately after, the song goes right into a dizzying array of musical notes which was just fascinating.

After a brief intermission, I was ready for part two, even more im-
pressive than the first part. The sec-
ond part included contemporary songs on the guitar. Spread through-
out these songs were bluesy tunes. At times, soler would be playing with one hand on the neck of the guita-
r, and the other hand would be snappi-
g— even that sounded impecc-

cable. One song in particular, full of notes that I did not even know were possible to make on a guitar, but still performed beautifully.

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