Venezuelans protest for reform

By Kathryn Zackary Cyr
Contributing Writer

As Ukrainian protestors fight their increasingly bloody battle in Kiev for a more democratic government, the struggle to obtain food, water, and other basic commodities is occurring halfway across the world. In Venezuela, protestors have been taking to the streets of Caracas since the beginning of February, and the clashes between demonstrators and state police continue to grow more violent.

The catalyst for these demonstrations began with the election of President Nicolás Maduro, who replaced the late Hugo Chávez as president of Venezuela. Under Maduro’s administration, the country’s economy has taken a nosedive, seeing an increase in inflation, an expanding budget deficit, and an increase in state intervention into the private sectors of the economy. This mismanagement has led to Venezuelans being unable to obtain food, water, and other basic commodities.

Protests opposing the government began in the beginning of February. These movements were led by the People’s Will party leader Leopoldo López. The plan was to lead a group composed of mostly college students, aged 18 to 25, in a march through the streets of Caracas. Their destination was the Presidential Palace. There they delivered a letter of demands outlining their reforms for a better Venezuela.

The protestors were successful in this task; however, things soon turned ugly. An hour after the political leaders of the movement departed, the remaining protestors who were still crowding the streets, found themselves being charged by state police armed with tear gas, fire hoses, and guns. Confrontation escalated between protestors armed with rocks and improvised clubs, and the better equipped police officers. By Kathryn Zackary Cyr

Six Appeal at Bryant

By Kathryn Valentin and Alexander Scelzo
Staff Writers

Bryant’s Student Arts and Speaker’s club on campus has been known to bring to Bryant some big name people, like Shawn Johnson and Mitch Albom. But on February 18th, they brought in a group of six guys who had met as freshmen in college and decided to combine their talent to showcase to willing listeners.

Eight years later, the a capella group, Six Appeal, rolled their shabby van, proclaimed as the “sketchmobile” onto Bryant’s campus to take the Janikies stage and show the Bryant community what they could do. Looking suave in their color-coordinated black and red outfits, they entered the auditorium to a group of skeptical audience members, and ended the show to booming cheers and a standing ovation.

Maybe one of you reading this article have gone to see Bryant’s own a capella group ‘The Bottom Line’, or maybe you haven’t. But if you attended this event not knowing about a capella, we’re certain you left with a positive image of this incredibly unique, fun, and artistic type of music. A capella music is known for its sole reliance on the human voice to create music. This lack of instruments is far from a liability to a capella groups, who use their voices to creatively, and sometimes humorously, imitate sounds usually produced from a variety of instruments and other sources.

A few of the sounds replicated by the Bottom Line and Six Appeal were trombones, electric guitars, trumpets, violins, drums and even Chewbacca.

The Bottom Line, which co-sponsored this event with SASS, had the opportunity to sing a song with Six Appeal, opening the show with a wonderful rendition of Gavin DeGraw’s “Not Over You.” Where Bryant’s own Kevin Power’s ‘719’ sang the lead along with Six Appeal’s lead singer Michael Brookers. Before Six Appeal took the stage, Bryant’s Bottom Line gave a preview of what was to come, by singing some of their own songs including, “Mine”.

The quest to become bilingual at Bryant

By Alexis Giordano
Contributing Writer

Yes, I am a Spanish major but no, I do not consider myself fluent in Spanish. So then what do I consider myself? I’m a confident, strongly conversational Spanish speaker who isn’t afraid to make mistakes. I’m a student who aspires to reach the level of fluency. I’m an active participant, in and outside the classroom, who is willing to grow and expand my knowledge academically and personally. So what does each of these all have in common? Together they represent effort, drive, motivation, and a passion for success, and at Bryant University, we don’t have to do it alone.

Rather than solely focusing on the language aspect of Spanish, I’ve been able to understand and learn about culture, government, religion, and traditions of Spanish speaking countries. Without even realizing it, I’ve analyzed Spanish literature, debated political issues, listened to Spanish music, and conversed with native speakers while simultaneously developing my understanding of what it means to be a Spanish major.

I attend Bryant University, so how can one of my degrees be liberal arts major? Isn’t it a business school? I’m sure that’s what most of you were thinking, and unfortunately what some of you may continue to think, but now it’s time to break the barriers of the stereotype of what it means to be a Spanish major and more importantly, what it’s not. Bryant University is an institution for higher learning. It’s a university of almost 4,000 students looking to obtain a degree in order to pursue their future in whatever industry they may have interest in or, in some cases, just to walk through the archway in four years. Each student has a clean slate on their first day of freshman year to intellectually challenge themselves to find what they want to become. Within each person is a passion and drive for success, so what holds each one of us back? We are creatures of comfort, meaning that when given the opportunity to try something new, some of us reject that idea. Upon entering Bryant, I had six years of Spanish under my belt. I considered myself fluent, I mean I knew how to ask who is your name, where is the bathroom, and do you have a sister/brother, so naturally I thought what else would I ever need to know? I soon realized there was much more to learn.

Growing up, I always had an interest in Spanish, but quite honestly, I didn’t know how I wanted to approach it. Many people are hesitant to pursue a degree in a foreign language...
ACCIDENT (MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT)  
Feb 17, 2014 - Monday at 16:23  
Location: TOWNHOUSE  
Summary: A student reported damage to his vehicle which was parked outside of a Townhouse. The person that hit the vehicle reported the incident to DPS.

EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED  
Feb 17, 2014 - Monday at 21:31  
Location: RESIDENCE HALL  
Summary: DPS received a call from a Professor stating that he received a text message from one of his students who states he does not feel well, and he is having trouble walking. EMS was activated, Smithfield Rescue was requested. Patient was transported to Fatima Hospital for treatment.

FIRE SAFETY VIOLATION  
Feb 22, 2014 - Saturday at 01:35  
Location: TOWNHOUSE  
Summary: DPS cited students that were smoking a hooka, and had the smoke detectors covered.

ACCIDENT (MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT)  
Feb 22, 2014 - Saturday at 08:03  
Location: RESIDENCE HALL 16 LOT  
Summary: Student reported that her parents were involved in an accident in the Commuter lot. A student backing out of a parking space hit the vehicle while passing through the lot. No injuries reported.
**Ingredients:**
- 3 (12 ounce) packages refrigerated biscuit dough
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 (12 ounce) packages refrigerated biscuit dough

**Directions:**
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease one 9 or 10 inch tube/Bundt® pan.
2. Mix white sugar and cinnamon in a plastic bag. Cut biscuits into quarters. Shake 6 to 8 biscuit pieces in the sugar cinnamon mix. Arrange pieces in the bottom of the prepared pan. Continue until all biscuits are coated and placed in pan. If using nuts and raisins, arrange them in and among the biscuit pieces as you go along.
3. In a small saucepan, melt the margarine with the brown sugar over medium heat. Boil for 1 minute. Pour over the biscuits.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 35 minutes. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, and then turn out onto a plate. Do not cut; the bread just pulls apart!

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**Monkey Bread**

This may be one of the easiest desserts you could ever make, even a monkey could do it! If you like gooey, warm cinnamon rolls, this dessert was made for you. Honestly, this bread isn’t much more than a bunch of dough balls dunked in cinnamon-sugar and basted in buttery brown sugar, but who can say that description doesn’t sound amazing? Be prepared for a little sugar high from this delicious baked sensation, with its perfect blend of cinnamon, granulated sugar, and brown sugar. Just a few minutes after you pop the monkey bread into the oven, the smell of cinnamon will be strong enough to make your taste buds cry out and your mouth water. I highly recommend eating this right out of the oven, too, to capitalize on its hot, sugary goodness. You don’t even need a utensil to indulge in this bread, just dive in with your hands and start ripping off pieces! If you want to add even more texture and flavor, you might throw on some walnuts or pecans. This is an awesome dessert for any occasion.

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**Turner’s Thoughts**

Truth be told, diets do NOT work!

By Debbie Turner
Registered Dietitian for Bryant University Dining

I love this statement: “I want to eat healthy. Tell me what I need to eat to be healthy.” Guess what, I can tell you, but until you really “want” to, the changes won’t happen.

So here is a way to start. Remember, eating better does not have to be rocket science. Notice I said “eating better,” the word DIET is not in this vocabulary. Why? BECAUSE DIETS DO NOT WORK! Instead of letting yourself feel overwhelmed by diets, start by taking a look at your current behaviors around food and begin to work on one situation at a time.

1. Evaluate what you do right now.
   - Do you eat a lot of snacks?
   - Do you drink a lot of coffee or soft drinks?
   - Do you eat fast food or fast food-type items (fries, burgers, tacos, pizzas, etc) more than two or three times a week?
2. Use what you give yourself.
   - That is the only way to make changes reality.
3. Once you know what your habits are, identify ways you can improve them. Remember, you don’t have to attack them all at once; you will be more successful if you take smaller steps. If you eat fast food often, what do you eat? Can you switch out fries for a salad on two of the three occasions? If you drink lots of soft drinks, can you substitute water? If you snack a lot, what do you snack on? If it’s chips or something unhealthy, can you substitute a piece of fruit? Do you eat any fruits and vegetables? Commit to making sure you eat one piece of fruit or one vegetable to each meal or snack.
4. Choose one or two things from your list you know you can change and do it—commit.
   - Put this new behavior into practice and stick to it for a couple of weeks; you’ll eventually you won’t have to think about it.
5. Keep evaluating and changing slowly.
   - This is the best way to make sure your resolutions become habits and not a short term diet.
6. Most importantly, don’t beat yourself up if you slip. Changes are not easy to make and require a lot of adjustment. It can be as hard to give up fast food as cigarettes for some people.
7. Keep working in small steps and take it one day at a time. Good luck and let me know if you need help!
Although the debate remains over widespread utilization of renewable energy technologies, many companies, organizations, and governments are looking into the potential of using renewable energy sources to provide power and electricity for their daily functions.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, technology can provide a solution to the problem of renewable energy. Renewable energy sources are often considered cost effective for storing large amounts of electrical energy. By providing storage capacity, this battery makes renewable energy generation as practical and reliable as conventional and fossil fuels.

In 2013, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has funded the first Indian solar floating power plant in Kerala, West Bengal. The prototype is expected to be 10kW of power. Studies indicate that floating solar power plants can generate more power than land power plants. This is because a plant is covered with water when floating, which enhances the ability to generate power by sixteen percent. With India's current population expected to be approximately 1.22 billion in 2050, finding land for renewable energy power plants is a daunting challenge. A floating solar power plant will help solve this conundrum.

Caracas, leading to more violence and more injuries. The Venezuelan student battle reform continues 137 people have been injured and 11 have died. The Syrian playing out in Caracas has not quite reached the levels of violence seen in Kiev, and has received significantly less international news coverage. However, the lack of international attention to the crisis is due in part to the懂事 media control of media sources.

I have a particular love for the Spanish language. I’ve found my passion for Spanish because...
Sigma Chi Goes Bald

By Kathryn Valentini and Alex Scelzo
Staff Writers

If you’ve noticed a sudden increase in the number of bald heads on campus - no, it's not just because it's suddenly the new trend, or well maybe it is. But, really, it’s to benefit the St. Baldrick’s foundation for children with cancer. Last Thursday and Friday, great guys, and a few lovely ladies, sat down in make-shift barber chairs to have their heads shaved in order to raise awareness for a great cause. If you’re an upperclassman, then you’ve likely seen this same scene before; if you’re a freshman, welcome to St. Baldrick’s at Bryant University!

A volunteer driven organization, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation is on a mission to aid in the severely-underfunded research of cancers that are specific to children and young adults. To do this, the foundation holds awareness events anywhere it can, from restaurants, malls, parks, and churches, to school campuses and military bases. These events challenge volunteers to shave their heads in solidarity with children fighting cancer while raising money towards the cause.

So, just how serious is childhood cancer? According to the St. Baldrick’s Foundation website, “More children are lost to cancer in the U.S. than any other disease - in fact, more than St. Baldrick’s Foundation website, “More children are lost to cancer in the U.S. than any other disease - in fact, more than all other childhood diseases combined.” In 2013 alone, St. Baldrick’s raised $34,364,222 from 1,380 head shaving events which saw a whopping 49,847 males shave their heads and 8,840 females shave their heads. Each year, the numbers continue to climb, as awareness and money is raised for this spectacular cause.

At Bryant, this event is large in scope, and requires collaboration from a variety of individuals and organizations. Each year, Bryant’s chapter of Colleges Against Cancer organizes the event and reaches out for a Bryant team or organization to serve as the face of the event. This year, Bryant’s chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity volunteered to promote, encourage, and serve as the main fundraising force for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. In a week-long fundraising flurry, the brothers of Sigma Chi raised $3,330 for this cause, while Bryant University as a whole raked in $5,196. In addition, twenty brothers sat to have their heads shaved by volunteer stylists from the Toni and Guy Hairdressing Academy. These significant numbers and even the smallest bit could mean a world of difference for a young child suffering with cancer.

However, it is not just philanthropic groups such as Colleges Against Cancer and the Sigma Chi Fraternity that make events such as these possible. These volunteer charity events unite the Bryant community. So, as a reminder, if you see a few bald heads on campus, don’t be alarmed, give them a smile.

Six Appeal

Continued from page 1
originally sung by Taylor Swift and covered by soloist Stephanie Shepard (’15), as well as Kyle Ebersold (’14) who covered the Rascal Flatt’s “Life is a Highway.”

Six Appeal, consists of members: Jordan Roll, Michael Brookens, Trey Jones, Nathan Hickey, Reuben Hushagen and Andrew Berkowitz. Together, the six of them displayed exceptional individual and group musical abilities. Despite the group’s small size, their well-blended voices created a sound that filled the theater, bolstered by the incredibly low voice of bass Reuben Hushagen and beatboxer Andrew Berkowitz. Unchained to any one genre, the group performed oldies, rock, pop, and jazz tunes with ease.

Not only did they cover infamous songs such as “The Circle of Life”, from The Lion King, and Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ “Same Love”, but they also sang two original songs written by group members Andrew Berkowitz and Trey Jones which blew those of us in the audience away.

Aside from their pure musical genius, these six men had amazing chemistry amongst themselves and were more than just musical performers, they were also comedians. The interjection of humor had the audience sucked into the performance, wondering what they were going to do next. The humor didn’t stop at just fillers between songs, but leaked its way into some songs as well. This was most noticeable during their cover of the classic breakup anthem “I Will Survive” where they ingeniously interjected Miley Cyrus’s “Wrecking Ball” at just the right moment, evoking a mixed feeling of disbelief and amusement from the crowd.

By the end of the show, no one really wanted the performance to end. We had all been captivated by the group’s ability to create music. It was unbelievable what they could do without instruments and everyone kept hoping that the next song they sang wouldn’t be the last. Eventually, all good things must end, and so Six Appeal’s time on stage ended. However, they left the crowd buzzing with energy and excitement, feeling rejuvenated after a few hours of comedic relief, exceptional music, and pure talent.

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- PLUS $1/hour more for night hours worked 6pm-6am
- PLUS Summer bonus if eligible (avg. student bonus is $400)
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- PLUS Possible internship eligibility
- PLUS Eligibility to apply for $1,500 scholarship, etc.

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Candy Crush Company IPO

By Christopher Chapruet Contributing Writer

King Digital Entertainment PLC (King Digital) is the leading interactive entertainment company for the mobile world. They focus on designing and developing games that are easy to learn and challenging to master. As a London-based company established in 2002, King Digital has risen to the top of the gaming companies for Apple’s iPhone and iOS devices, as well as Google operating systems. With all of their games being proven successful, Farm Heroes Saga, Bubble Witch Saga and their most popular game, Candy Crush Saga, the company has found a strategic way to make money. King Digital provides their players with numerous opportunities to purchase virtual items priced relative to the entertainment value they provide. Not only are their games for entertainment, but they also provide a social feature where players can interact virtually with each other through the games.

King Digital’s most popular and most frequently downloaded game, Candy Crush Saga, is a “switcher game” in which players match candies in combinations of three or more to win points and defeat obstacles. Candy Crush Saga was first available to play on King.com in March 2011 and soon expanded to Facebook and mobile devices in April 2012 and November 2012, respectively. In December 2013, Candy Crush Saga expanded once again to include “Dreamworld,” a parallel world of levels with different obstacles for the user to complete.

With over 324 million users per month across multiple platforms of all games, King Digital does not show any sign of slowing down its expansion. Candy Crush Saga has an average of 93 million users per day and was played more than 1 billion times a day during December 2013. On February 18, 2014, King Digital Enterntainment PLC announced that it filed a registration statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission relating to a proposal on an initial public offering (IPO). The number of shares and price per share has yet to be announced. The ticker symbol on the New York Stock Exchange will be KNG.

Buffett’s Top Pocks

1. Wells Fargo
   Buffet’s top holding is unsurprisingly in the nation’s most profitable bank. At the end of December, Berkshire held 463.5 million shares of Wells Fargo, worth $21 billion.

2. Coca-Cola
   One of Buffett’s all-time favorite stocks. He has been quoted saying he will never sell shares in the world renowned beverage company. His stake in the company is worth $16.5 billion.

3. American Express
   This total number of shares remained steady through the end of the fourth quarter totaling $13.8 billion.

4. International Business Machines
   Notoriously known as one of the most influential blue chips in the market, Buffett also holds $13.8 billion in IBM stock.

5. Procter & Gamble
   Berkshire’s shares remained unchanged at the end of 2013 in which they finished near 52-week highs pushing their stake to a worth of $4.3 billion.

6. Exxon Mobil
   Despite being a relatively recent addition for Berkshire, the world’s largest publicly traded oil company, has quickly become one of their biggest holdings. The additional million shares purchased in the fourth quarter leaves Berkshire with $4.2 worth of Exxon Mobil stock.

7. Wal-Mart
   Berkshire also increased their holdings in the world’s largest retailer to total of $1.9 billion.

8. U.S. Bancorp
   With the additional purchase of stock in the fourth quarter, Buffett proves to be partial to the Minnesota-based bank with an overall stake of $2.9 billion.

9. DIRECTV
   Berkshire’s 36.5 million shares remained unchanged from the previous quarter with a worth of $2.5 billion.

10. DaVita HealthCare Partners
    With the additional purchase of stock in the fourth quarter, Buffett is likely to have purchased the company’s annual report on its performance.

Weekly Business Quote

“Your personal core values define who you are, and a company’s core values ultimately define the company’s character and brand. For individuals, character is destiny. For organizations, culture is destiny.”
- Tony Hsieh

Comcast mega merger

By John Zeiner Business Editor

There is game changing news in the land of television. Last week, Comcast agreed to acquire Time Warner Cable in an enormous $45 billion stock deal which will boost Comcast’s subscribers by an additional 11 million. This represents more than a third of cable subscribers in the U.S. However, there is much more to the story than just the TV service.

This deal not only reshapes the broadband landscape as Comcast expands their reach into previously untapped markets. They reach countless new cities across the country as Comcast and Time Warner did not have overlapping markets. Furthermore, Comcast has most recently been putting money into streaming-video services like Netflix, which is responsible for between a third and a half of all network traffic in the country. This will also provide Comcast an additional layer of protection from the likes of Verizon FiOS and Dish Network, which operate within Comcast’s territories and compete directly against it.

Time Warner Cable customers should expect to see modifications to their service that reflect how Comcast operates. Unfortunately, data hounds will be unhappy with the likely cap in data that they will probably place on Time Warner subscribers who had no cap prior to the merger.

Another short term effect could be leverage in its negotiation agreements with TV broadcasters. Last year, Time Warner blocked CBS for several months, leaving them with the ability to remove certain content or even entire channels. With the new merger, Comcast will have more leverage than they ever have had. As a result of fewer competitors in the broadband and TV landscape, it is likely that consumers will see higher prices in the coming years. Nevertheless, Time Warner and Comcast customers will reap some benefits.

In recent years, the two companies have partnered with Comcast Communications on a project called CableWiFi, which operates a network of Wi-Fi hotspots in major cities around the United States. Subscribers to any of the cable companies have free access to any hotspot in the network. In the interest of increasing coverage, Comcast has begun leveraging its customers’ routers as publicly accessible hotspots. With the addition of Time Warner, they will be able to expand these residential hotspots using Time Warner’s customers.

Sadily, other than switching cable providers entirely, consumers do not have any options. The completion of this merger is entirely up to the Federal Communications Commission and Department of Justice who have a history of being insensitive to consumer feedback on similar issues.

Nonetheless, there is always the option of getting rid of your cable service entirely. Apple TV, Roku, and the newer Google Chromecast provide alternative options. But chances are that consumers will rely on their respective cable providers for internet service. Will mergers between cable TV providers be a trend of the future? Only time will tell.

Graph of the week

Biggest Bankruptcies

How Energy Future Holdings would rank among the biggest bankruptcies since 1898

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<th>Year</th>
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Weekly Business Quote

"Your personal core values define who you are, and a company’s core values ultimately define the company’s character and brand. For individuals, character is destiny. For organizations, culture is destiny.”
- Tony Hsieh
Bulldogs suffer sweep against Maryland

On bright side Schlitter named NEC Pitcher of the Week

By Justin Beaucage
Sports Editor

When the Bulldogs’ season began, they were favored to win the NEC for the second consecutive season. After such a surprising 2013 campaign, when many had written off the conference, the Bulldogs return with a star-studded roster. Bryant’s baseball team is still expected to be the team to beat in the NEC. The team isn’t just ready to defend its title, but they are ready to win it again. However, they might have a tougher time doing this than they expected.

The Bulldogs were swept this past weekend against Maryland, opening the season with three-straight losses. In three games, the Bulldogs could only get three runs on the scoreboard, and all of them came in the last game of the series. In the first two games, the team could not get the bats going, as they were shutout by a score of 5-0 in both games. Despite great efforts from the mound in three games, the Bulldogs know they must get their offense going at the plate to be dominant in the NEC once again.

However, the Bulldogs know that it’s early in the season, and there still should be time to shake off the offseason rust. Sometimes, getting the timing down for hitters is one of the most difficult parts about baseball and getting back into a rhythm. It might take a few weeks, but the team should be able to improve its offensive attack as the season rolls on.

Despite struggling and a disappointing opening three game series, there was one piece of great news for the Bulldogs in the opening weekend of baseball. Pitcher Craig Schlitter was named the NEC Pitcher of the Week for sensational play on the mound. The senior right hander was given the award because of allowing just one unearned run, on two hits in five innings of work. He also struck out six batters in his 2014 debut.

He also faced plenty of jams in his first game this year. However, with some masterful pitching, Schlitter was able to get out of these situations, and was good enough to be named the best pitcher in the conference for this week. It is the third time Schlitter has won the award, and adds to what has been an illustrious career for Bryant. He is one of the best pitchers for the Bulldogs, and has been one of the leaders of this ball club.

“Even with a disappointing outcome to the series opener, there’s no reason to panic about Bulldogs’ baseball and their chances to repeat as NEC champions.”

By Mark Gallant
Staff Writer

The Red Sox bullpen situation was nothing short of crazy last season, but it worked out for the best. With some new faces added to the mix, spring training will surely be a battle ground for the final bullpen spots.

Longshots:
- Drake Britton, Francisco Cordero, Rich Hill
  All three players could see time at the big league level later in the season, but it’s unlikely they’ll make the roster out of the gate. Britton had a lengthy call up last season and showed promise in 18 appearances, while Rich Hill is back with the organization after a poor season with Cleveland in 2013.
- Cordero could end up finding his way to the Sox, but similar to Greinke’s deal, this is a low-risk, high-reward type of signing. The 38-year-old didn’t pitch last season, but lost 30 pounds and could be a valuable option down the road if he puts some work in at Pawtucket.

Bubbling up:
- Brayan Villarreal, Brandon Workman, Jose Mujeres
  Villarreal was acquired last season in the Jake Peavy trade and pitched one game for the Red Sox. He faced one batter with the bases loaded, walking him on four pitches resulting in a walk-off win for the Giants. Workman worked as a starter this offseason in winter ball and Farrell says he plans on working him as a starter in spring training. He may have to settle for the Pawtucket rotation until a chance arises, as Boston may not have room for two extra starters/long relievers.
- Mujeres pitched for San Francisco last year, appearing in 60 games and posting a poor WHIP of 1.79. However, in 2012, the hefty 265 pound lefty posted an ERA of 2.56 and a WHIP of 1.26 in 78 appearances.

Locks:
- Andrew Miller, Burke Badenhop, Junichi Tazawa, Edward Mujica, Craig Breslow, Koji Uehara

Miller is set to return coming off foot surgery which ended his season early last July. Miller had posted career bests in ERA, K/9 innings, and K/BB ratio. The 6-foot-7 lefty should be fully recovered by the beginning of the season.

Badenhop was signed early this offseason after posting for Milwaukee last year. Sox fans may be familiar with the 6-foot-5 righty from his season with Tampa Bay in 2012, in which he posted a career best 3.01 ERA.

Tazawa and Breslow are both back after posting solid regular and postseason numbers. Breslow posted a career best 1.81 ERA along with a 1.12 WHIP and had several key performances against the Tigers in the ALCS. Tazawa was second on the team with 71 appearances last season, but might have a slightly different role this season with Mujica on the squad.

Mujica, who was a National League all-star last season for the Cardinals, was signed to a two-year deal this offseason. The 29-year-old Venezuelan ended up losing the closer’s job at the end of the season, as his ERA rose from 1.73 at the end of August to 2.78 by season’s end. Mujica could potentially be the setup man for Boston this year with Koji closing things out.

With the likes of Andrew Bailey and Joel Hanrahan gone for good, Koji Uehara plans to return to his dominating form in the closer’s role. Uehara allowed only one run and one walk after the all-star break in 32 innings, while striking out 42. This included a stretch of 37 straight batters retired, which was only four short of the record. He did however set a record of his own by posting a WHIP of .57, which was the lowest ever of a WHIP in a season. Breslow posted a career best 1.81 ERA along with a 1.12 WHIP and had several key performances against the Tigers in the ALCS. Tazawa was second on the team with 71 appearances last season, but might have a slightly different role this season with Mujica on the squad.

The Archway will return after Spring Break.
Saying goodbye to a true Yankee: Jeter to retire following the 2014 season

By Zach Friedland
Contributing Writer

He is a 13-time All-Star, 5-time Gold Glove and Silver Slugger award winner, and most importantly a 5-time World Series Champion. Derek Jeter will retire at the end of the 2014 season as one of the greatest ever to don pinstripes in the Bronx.

Aside from the obvious on-field success with the Yankees and his legendary career with the female population of New York City as noted by SportsNation, Jeter's success stretches further. His reputation as one of the most respected clubhouse leaders of his time and his abilities in the clutch stand out above all awards and accolades. How will Jeter finish his illustrious career? As noted in pre-season interviews, he expects to add another ring to his collection.

Derek Jeter broke into the bigs in 1995, after being selected 6th in the 1992 MLB draft straight out of high school. Jeter entered a strange era of Yankees baseball, one that featured 12 consecutive seasons without a postseason appearance. He joined the team with three other young players making their debuts for the Yankees: Jorge Posada, Mariano Rivera, and Andy Pettitte. These four became known as the, “Core Four” and they were built around for years to come.

The saying in baseball always went that you build your team from the middle of the field out. In a sense, a core of a team should be built around the middle infield, pitching, and catching. This is exactly how the Yankees developed their dynasty, as Pettitte headed the rotation and Rivera backed the rotation in the 9th. Posada anchored the rotation from behind the plate and Jeter strengthened an infield lacking an identity. One year after the core four's first full season in pinstripes, the Yankees hoisted their first World Series trophy in 19 years.

Jeter never wowed from the plate with gaudy power numbers, or extraordinary speed, but instead showed patience, with a plate discipline that has been idolized and coveted by opposing scouts and managers. 'Captain Clutch' has posted 12 seasons with a batting average of over .300, showing off as a model contact hitter with uncharacteristically high power numbers for a player hitting from either the 1 or 2 spot in the batting order.

The Yankees captain has also impressed with extraordinary durability, playing in over 150 games in 13 seasons while posting league high plate appearance numbers in 5 seasons. Derek Jeter has been a model of consistency for the Yankees in a sport that has been known for holding players back from playing until the player is 100% healthy.

Where does Jeter rank amongst the all-time great Yankees? It's hard to judge his legacy until the team has seen a few years without his presence. For now, Mr. November is most certainly in the conversation of the best to ever put on pinstripes, in the ranks of Gehrig, DiMaggio, Ruth, and Rivera. As Jeter makes his farewell tour in 2014, we can be certain he will be content with that.

The Yankees will have to go on without Derek Jeter next season. (MCT Campus)

Week’s Best Sports Tweets

Paul George @Paul_George24 @RSherman_25 Come thru bro you might learn something bout defense ha ha jk we welcome the champs! #Respect

Warren Sapp @WarrenSapp I love grilled cheese but not at $15 & without the soup!?

Phoenix Suns @Suns Call us when it happens in the playoffs. RT @HoustonRockets: Wow. Maybe we should celebrate that @DwightHoward one-handed dunk in 20 years.

Metta World Peace @MettaWorldPeace im not ugly. i just cry when i see my face because i never saw something so perfect.

Bryant wants to improve your student experience and needs YOUR help

Keep an eye on your email for a link to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Finish the survey before Spring Break to be entered into a raffle

Make your voice heard!
Sports

February 26, 2014

The other cold war: United States defeats Russia in crucial Olympic hockey game

By Nick Calabro
Staff Writer

In history class, we may or may not get up to a certain conflict that the United States had with the then Soviet Union. However, every four years, in the Winter Olympics, there is a chance to feel a comparable intensity. This happens when the United States and Russia play each other in ice hockey. The one everybody remembers is the "Miracle on Ice" game of 1980, but during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, these two superpowers had a rematch. Let's go through some highlights, shall we?

After the puck dropped, the rivalry engaged in a scoreless first period. In terms of play quality, it was a near stalemate. That was until Blake Wheeler was penalized for taking down Ilya Kovalchuk, with about 8:30 left to play in the period. And now it was starting to show that Russia might be outplaying the U.S. with a 4-1 shot advantage on the power play.

Russia would also have a chance with 3:30 left in the period, thanks to Semin and Malkin, but Jonathan Quick made the save. Russia thought they had scored, but it was not to be as the refs stopped play. With 19:23 gone by, Ilya Nikulin would be penalized for holding meaning the U.S. would start the second period on the power play.

Despite a threatening shot by Kevin Shattenkirk, the U.S. would not be able to capitalize on this man advantage. Speaking of man advantages, Russia would get one when Max Pacioretty took down Nichushkin. Again Russia did not score, but they did hit the post and the crossbar, which means that they knew they could get it past Jonathan Quick.

After an opportunity for the U.S., Pavel Datsyuk took a shot past Quick on the glove side and put Russia on the board with 9:15 left in the second. But the score changed when Alexander Radulov took a penalty for knocking Dustin Brown down with a crosscheck. With 3:08 left in the second, the U.S.A. tied the game at one. The second period came to a close, and just like the U.S. at the start of the period, Russia began the third on the power play, because Patrick Kane hooked Tereschenko.

In the third period, shortly after Ryan McDonagh blocked a powerful shot from Alexander Ovechkin, Dustin Brown was called for interference, giving Russia another power play right after their last one. After the scoreless power play, the U.S. had one when Alexander Radulov hooked Patrick Kane. With 10:28 in the third period, Joe Pavelski put the U.S. in the lead, 2-1. But Dustin Brown was penalized again, and Russia tied it at two with a screen from Radulov and a shot from Datsyuk with 7:16 left in regulation.

With 4:40 left in the period, Fedor Tyutin hit the crossbar and it went into the net, so it looked like Russia would go up 3-2. But something happened, the net was dislodged, apparently by Jonathan Quick, so the refs overturned the goal, meaning it was still tied 2-2. There was no further scoring, which brought the game to overtime, starting with a U.S. powerplay, because Medvedev took down Callahan, near the end of the third. Unlike earlier, the U.S. would not score on the power play. Also, neither team would score during overtime, even though Patrick Kane had pretty good chances. And then it was time for the shootout. T.J. Oshie and Ilya Kovalchuk scored during the first three rounds, extending the shootout to where each round is sudden death. Datsyuk and Radulov scored in Round Five and Six for Russia, but so would T.J. Oshie, and he also got the next goal in Round Eight, ending the shootout and securing the American victory.

Clowney not joking around: defensive end impresses scouts at the NFL combine

By Justin Beaucage
Sports Editor

The NFL has transitioned into a league where fast, mobile quarterbacks have dominated the NFL. Quarterbacks cannot only burn defenders with their arms, but they can make them look foolish in the open field with speed and mobility. It seems like no one can catch them once they are in the open field.

However, after the NFL scouting combine, quarterbacks may not be able to run away from South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney. They might not even be able to hide.

Clowney is one of the best defensive prospects to enter the NFL Draft in the last decade. His combination of size, strength, speed, and versatility makes him a rare gem and one of the most freakish athletes the NFL has seen in a long time. He was one of the best defensive players in college through his three years, as he was most known for "The Hit," in the 2013 Outback Bowl against Michigan running back Vincent Smith. The ground might still be shaking from that hit, as it was one best defensive plays in college football history.

He had a stellar 2012 campaign, where he recorded 54 tackles and 13 sacks, five of them coming against rival Clemson. Coming into the 2013 campaign, Clowney was supposed to be a Heisman Candidate. However, injuries and lack of effort led to Clowney failing to reach the hype.

Thanks to his disappointing season, many scouts were skeptical on selecting Clowney in this year's draft. Questioning his effort, how much he cares about football, and what he is willing to give to the team, have all hurt Clowney's draft stock. It would take a strong Clowney showing at the NFL combine to prove those critics wrong.

At the combine, not only did Clowney silence those critics, he showed why he is the best defensive prospect in the draft.

Clowney only participated in two events at the combine. Despite only getting 21 reps of 225 in the bench press, which is a little low for someone his size, it was his speed that got all the scouts buzzing. In the 40 yard dash, he recorded an amazing 4.53 time. Not only is this astounding for someone of his size and weight, but it is simply amazing for a defensive end. Clowney was faster than all but 6 running backs, and his time is faster than any quarterback since 2006 besides Robert Griffin III.

It's safe to say most of the NFL won't be able to run away from Clowney. Someone who is this big, this fast, and this strong, can really take the league by storm, and can be one of the best defensive linemen in the league.

So, what does this impressive combine display mean for Clowney's draft stock? He still has a pro day before the draft, which will give him a chance to workout for teams that actually will look to draft him. Before the combine, Clowney was projected to be a top ten pick. Now, he might be guaranteed at least going in the top five. He is certainly one of the best teams that doubted him reconsider their evaluation.

Clowney is a freak, and a defensive nightmare who has the potential to blow the best rookie, but one of the most talented defensive ends in the NFL.
FAVORITE CLASS THIS SEMESTER?

HAILEY RICHARDS
SOPHOMORE
"CULTURE STUDIES"

GUILLAUME SABOURIN
SOPHOMORE
"ECON 497"

MICAYLA PLANTE
SOPHOMORE
"SPANISH"

BRODY Zisko
SOPHOMORE
"MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING"

ALICIA CELOME
SOPHOMORE
"LEGALS"

DERRICK WONG
SOPHOMORE
"ECOLOGY"
Redskins may become red faced over controversy

By Matthew Gillen

Staff Writer

The term ‘Redskin’, is considered by some to be a racial slur used to identify Native Americans by the color of their skin. Yet one of the most talked about NFL teams in the last couple of years has carried this term as part of their team name for the past 81 years.

The Washington Redskins have been receiving heat about their team name for decades. In 2004, the National Annenberg Survey asked Native Americans in 48 U.S. states, “The professional football team in Washington calls itself the Washington Redskins. As a Native American, do you find that name offensive or does it not bother you?” Some 90% replied that the name is acceptable, 9% said that it was offensive and 1% refused to comment.

Those against the Redskins name are self-righteously fighting for a fairer and less offensive world for themselves and people make a choice whether to be upset about mere words or not. Unless the other side comes up with a valid argument supported by evidence, the Washington Redskins will hold on to their name for many years to come.

Cleaning up Salmo while cleaning up Bryant

By Paden Sadler

Contributing Writer

As kids we were taught several key lessons, one of which was that we should clean up after ourselves. At home we still abide by the same principles and make sure that we pick up after ourselves so that others do not have to. At Bryant, for some reason, things are a little bit different.

When it comes to cleaning up after ourselves in Salmo, a lot gets left behind for others to clean up, and the person who does the cleaning up is Ms. Priscilla, the sweet lady who swipes you into the dining hall.

Having volunteered many times to help Ms. P clean up after “Trashless Tuesday”, we have seen the things that get left behind, and they are appalling. The things that get left behind on tables are not napkins or crumbs; they are piles of plates full of food overflowing onto the table, stacked cups with spilt drinks, piles of salt and pepper, things that have been intentionally left behind. The worst is when there are pieces of food and napkins thrown around everywhere for your own amusement.

Is it really that important to throw a fry at your friend, or try to throw a crumpled up napkin into your cup? Ms. P goes table to table, cleaning and washing each and every one of the over one hundred tables in Salmonson Dining Hall. The hall itself is far from dirty enough with accidental spills and droplets; there does not need to be additional mess created and left behind for Ms. P to clean for no reason.

Why should Ms. P have to clean up after us; why can we not pick up our own trash? We all are a part of the Bryant Community, there is no reason why we cannot each do our part and make it a nicer, cleaner, happier place. Think about how your parents would react if you left your plates, cups, silverware, and leftovers on your dining room table for them to clean. All of us can make the dining hall and the campus a cleaner place; we can make sure that we clean up after ourselves just as we would at home, and if our friends do not pick up after themselves we can urge them to do so for the betterment of everybody. It is the littlest things that can change the whole community; treating our campus with the same respect with have for our homes and adhering to the lessons in etiquette we learned as children is always a great place to start.

Looking at our campus, Salmonson Dining is just one example of places on campus where we can do more to keep it clean and presentable for everyone. The towers of the dorms, the big lots, and residence halls are also areas where we can all collectively do more to keep up the appearance of our campus. Our campus is known for its beauty and appearance, and it takes all of us to keep up that image.
Love as a choice

By Brendan Barstow
Staff Writer

Volumes upon volumes have been written on love. The melancholy of heartbreak and the fervent ecstasy of attraction have both driven countless pens to paper. In expressing our love, whether it be in song, poem, painting, or long hugs, we simultaneously attempt to understand it. Despite all of the time we humans spend contemplating the concept, though, it seems we are no closer to understanding it than we were thousands of years ago.

Massive sums of time and money go into researching the neuroscience of love, the characteristics of satisfied couples, and the algorithms behind dating websites, yet we are still vulnerable in facing the challenges of romance. All the data in the world doesn’t heal the agony of loss and has yet to make a significant dent in the 50% American divorce rate. The bulk of this exploration of love falls short in recognizing one fundamental truth: Love - deep, unconditional love, is not a feeling, but a choice.

Romantic comedies and media narratives tend to create the expectation that our soulmate is the person with whom you’ll share your first fight or laughable - that there are 7 billion people in the world and you’re going to meet them early ever after. Silly or not, this is the expectation that our soulmate falls short in recognizing one of this exploration of love makes a significant dent in the popularity for 50 years because they’re a fantastically compatible match.

We like to think that we’re incredibly good at knowing who’s going to make us happy, but let’s be honest - our test is passed with something as simple as a smile, a joke, a long conversation. The idea of having a soulmate is laughable - that there are 7 billion people in the world and you’re not only going to meet them, but you’re going to meet them early enough to love your life alongside them? No, no, rather there are millions upon millions of people in the world who could make us happy, but we choose one and decide to make them a promise. We promise to recognize their imperfections and the nuances that make them unique and love them anyway. Unconditional love means making the conscious decision to not only accept but to cherish a person’s flaws and failures, to immerse yourself in their whole being and thrive in it.

Stop waiting for Mr. or Mrs. Perfect; they don’t exist and never will. Find not the person whom you love at first sight for this is mistaking lust for love. Find instead the person you can learn to love and let them teach you how to accept and cherish every last fiber of their being - the back hair, the tiny butt, the obnoxious snoring and the obsession with cereal, the ketchup phobia, and the late-night affinity for Rage Against The Machine. Choose to Love.

“We come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.” - Sam Keen

Meditation success

By Ashley Smith
Staff Writer

It’s not a new concept— for thousands of years yogis have insisted that people take a deep breath and relax as tension melts from your muscles and stress fades from awareness. In one way or another we all know that relaxation is good for us. Meditation takes relaxation to the next level, a level with a variety of benefits.

While meditation has been around longer than we can imagine, science has finally caught up and is able to scientifically explain the many benefits of meditation. Researchers at Harvard Medical School discovered that people who practice meditation long-term have far more active genes that are geared toward the defense against diseases compared to those that do not practice meditation. In particular, they discovered new genes that protect from pain, infertility, high blood pressure and even rheumatoid arthritis that were switched “on,” or activated. Dr. Herbert Benson, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, stated in Medicine Today that “research at Harvard Medical School, stated in Medicine Today that “research at Harvard Medical School revealed that the genes can switch on just as easily as they switch off. Jake Toby, hypnotherapist at London’s BodyMind Medicine Centre, who teaches clients how to induce the effects of meditation, stated that “after two months, their bodies began to change: the genes that help fight inflammation, kill diseased cells, and protect the body from cancer all began to switch on.” On top of that, the benefits were seen to increase even more if the behavior continued.

That being said, let’s look at three profound health benefits of meditation that could greatly impact any college student!

1. Increased Immunity: Meditation has been shown to boost immunity in recovering cancer patients. Research from a study at Ohio State University found that daily muscular relaxation reduced the risk of breast cancer recurrence. Another study at Ohio State showed that a month of relaxation exercises boosted natural killer cells in the elderly, giving them a greater resistance to tumors and viruses.
2. Emotional Balance: Meditating regularly enhances emotional balance, meaning it helps maintain healthy emotional states. It helps to clear the mind regarding emotionally soaked memories and experiences. This allows the individual to think more clearly and respond in a way that is not colored by emotional burdens but instead in a way that is true and direct.
3. Calmness: The definitive difference between a person who mediates and a person who does not is the weight of each of their thoughts. A person who mediates will allow for upsetting thoughts to enter their mind, but then they will let them leave. A person who does not meditate will allow this thought to instigate a storm within their mind that rages on and on. With meditation comes a sense of calmness that allows for a person to control their mind in a way that is otherwise impossible.

All of these things could enhance the college experience significantly. Imagine getting sick less, being able to make more decisions based more on logic rather than emotion, and having a sense of calmness that reduces stress in every area of your life. So where do you start? Lucky for us, Professor Noelle Harris has brought meditation to Bryant! She stated that her “doctoral research is on mindfulness meditation and yoga because these practices induce balance for the mind, body, and soul, and are an excellent way to stay healthy and fit. Plus, the research demonstrates that if you increase positive practices and capacities such as calmness and acceptance, presence and compassion, you can decrease negative emotional states.

And the neuroscience behind both practices demonstrate brain growth.” Take advantage of the many benefits meditation can bring and attend one of the sessions Professor Harris facilitates here on campus!

On Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the MacAlister Interfaith Center, West Room she holds Meditation in Motion which involves yoga stretching and relaxation. You can attend one or all sessions and a yoga mat is optional! If Monday’s don’t work for you, there is also Thursday meditation from 1:05 to 1:30 p.m. in the MacAlister Interfaith Center, West Room. You can drop in to this self-directed meditation at any time to enjoy a peaceful silence, just leave your shoes at the door and enter silently.
What Grinds My Gears

By Zach DiFranza
Contributing Writer

This article doesn't aim to criticize you for smoking, but it does hope to convince you to quit, but does demonstrate exactly why smokers grind my gears.

First of all, there is nothing cool about smoking. I get it, when you turn 18 you feel like a badass and you want to be stared at while you smoke outside the Roto. People notice and look, not because you’re the man for smoking a cig, but because it’s 13 degrees out and your nicotine addiction is outweighing your natural avoidance of freezing weather. People are staring at you confused, because that must be a dangerous and expensive habit to maintain.

The smell alone nauseates me. It sticks to your clothes and hands, so no matter how much AXE you use or cologne. My parents have been caregivers for over a month’s time. I find it very wrong that they have to work on their mental health, however, physical health is there to work on their mental health as well. Being active increases mood and well-being and it promotes not only physical health, but mental health as well. It is proven that exercise regularly looks after a child or a sick, elderly, or disabled person. My parents have been caregivers of three children, one with severe mental disabilities.

My parents and I have grown and been able to take care of ourselves for the most part, my brother has not had it nearly as easy. My parents’ children are physically grown, however they still have a ‘child’ to take care of. I have an enormous amount of respect and love for not only my parents but my brother as well. Therefore, I am prepared to eventually take on the responsibility of being the caregiver of an amazing person, my big brother.

As I prepare for my future duty as a caregiver, I have realized how important it is to take care of my own health in order to best assist his needs. According to Health Communication in the 21st Century, 16% of caregivers have poor health themselves with 17% of US caregivers reporting fair or poor health. Having a higher percentage with 13% of the general adult population (NAC/AARP, 2009). My brother is of the type of person that will worry about his loved ones. Worrying and stress are one of the most difficult emotions for him to deal with and little problems can actually trigger his illness. While working on strengthening my brother, it is important that my life is balanced, my life is secure, be he will have the confidence to work on creating balance and security in his own life. One must take care of themselves before they can take care of others.

It is also proven that exercise promotes not only physical health, but mental health as well. Exercise increases mood and well-being and it can reduce fatigue, anxiety, and depression. My commitment to being physically fit will only help me when times become stressful. Additionally, being my brother on a daily exercise regimen can help him naturally overcome his struggles.

Those who do not engage in enough physical activity have been linked to obesity, osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and increased risk of certain types of cancer. My brother has enough problems to deal with daily, acquiring physical health issues as well would be terribly taxing on him and myself. I have experienced many psychiatric inpatient hospitals throughout my life. It has always bothered me that the patients get very little fresh air and virtually no exercise. It is a proven fact that physical activity, fresh air and sunlight can improve mood. Furthermore, the patients are then focused on their mental health, however, physical health is basically thrown out the window.

When my brother comes home from the hospital, he brings an extra 10-25 pounds along with him, acquired in about a month’s time. I find it very wrong that healthier options are not provided for the patients. I also find it wrong that the door leading to the screened-in porch is rarely unlocked. The only opportunities for exercise are walking up and down the hall. In fact, I was showing my brother that he could lunge or do ‘high-knees’ down the hallway when a staff member told me that wasn’t allowed.

It is awful that the patients are limited to television, coloring, board games and just sitting around. For the patients doing well enough, there should be a program for them to be active and have fun while doing it, at least twice weekly. With my experience in these hospitals. I believe I could handle being an instructor for patients so that they can look forward to the part of the day where they release endorphins.

Researchers have found that the emotional support aspect of caregiving is one of the most time-consuming and challenging aspects of all. Watching one of your loved ones in severe pain is very difficult. Trying to help them with their emotions while controlling your own in order to be strong for them, is also challenging. My parents have done an excellent job at raising my brother and he is doing better than he was predicted to. I have learned so much from them. In order to prepare for the future, I take my brother to some of his doctor appointments when I can. I will also sit in on psychiatric meetings with my brother and my parents. Caregiving requires tears and I feel as though I have prepared myself well.

With a great family or support system and the proper healthcare, people can fight the odds of their disease. It takes a strong and compassionate person to be a caregiver, and I am honored to eventually become one.

The weak can survive

By Madysen Milordi
Staff Writer

Taking care of another human being who is incapable of taking care of themselves, is no easy task. A caregiver is a family member or paid helper who is responsible for being the caregiver of an amazing person, my big brother.

My parents have been caregivers of three children, one with severe mental disabilities. I have grown and been able to take care of ourselves for the most part, my brother has not had it nearly as easy. My parents’ children are physically grown, however they still have a ‘child’ to take care of. I have an enormous amount of respect and love for not only my parents but my brother as well. Therefore, I am prepared to eventually take on the responsibility of being the caregiver of an amazing person, my big brother.

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Since I have been a caregiver of three children, one with severe mental disabilities. I have grown and been able to take care of ourselves for the most part, my brother has not had it nearly as easy. My parents’ children are physically grown, however they still have a ‘child’ to take care of. I have an enormous amount of respect and love for not only my parents but my brother as well. Therefore, I am prepared to eventually take on the responsibility of being the caregiver of an amazing person, my big brother.

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Drake: the dual persona of masculinity

By Daniel Donohue
Staff Writer

Drake dropped his album “Nothing Was the Same” in September of 2013 and was immediately praised for releasing his most ambitious work to date. This album followed a trend of previous works by the Canadian rapper, mixing rap with R&B and covering a spectrum of subject matter. Drake’s stardom has been rising ever since his major label debut in 2006, and even in his early career there has been a great deal of attention given to his unusual style. Drake falls in between the labeling of rapper and R&B artist, this is due to the rap songs sporadic releases, which in many ways contrasts with the subject matter of his softer R&B songs. When Drake raps, the themes he generally touches upon are sex, money, and fame… relatively shallow topics by an artist who has released such personal and telling works.

Many artists have bridged the gap between singing and rapping. Chris Brown and Donald Glover (aka Childish Gambino) are examples of modern artists mixing smooth R&B with rap. While both of these artists follow a similar format of musical production as Drake, neither has had the sweeping success in both musical styles. With this success came an astounding amount of ridicule from the general public on social media. It seemed like the week after ‘Nothing Was the Same’ released you couldn’t escape the tweets referring to Drake as emotional and feminine. Radio DJs, such as Charlamagne Tha God, have been outspoken critics of Drake’s style and personal life, going so far as to question Drake’s sexuality.

The questions raised from Drake’s success is what sets him apart from other male artists who tackle the same subject matter. When you look at the full body of Drake’s work it becomes apparent. While he has a great deal of success from emotional R&B songs, he gives just enough attention to his rap career to keep his more “hard core” persona credible. Another of Drake’s selling points is that he gives male fans an excuse to listen to music that would otherwise be deemed too “emotional” in our society where the conventional man avoids music with overly emotional content.

Drake releases just enough music hinting towards him being a hard rapper to keep his audience from deeming him as a one dimensional R&B artist. As he drops singles like “No Lie” and “The Motto” where he talks about the usual subject matter of popular rap (money and woman), he can release songs like “Marvin’s Room” and “Doing it Wrong” which depict a much softer and sensitive image. This speaks volumes about the demographic Drake appeals to, especially the male audience. It is as if to say listening to songs with an emotional subject matter is unacceptable unless the artist who produces those songs over compensates by assuring the listener he also embodies the traits of a stereotypical shallow rapper. There are many who praise Drake for his merging of Rap and R&B, while others find him to be weak in one or both categories. The truth is that delving into his skill as a musician would be getting into a circular argument. His success has less to do with musical talent and more to do with what he represents. The tear between the modern male psyche, the battle between exerting masculinity and expressing emotion seems to be wrapped up in the lyrical content of all of Drake’s music. That is why he has found success. Drake has made his music an embodiment of the constant identity struggle faced by many males growing up in this generation where almost all definitions of masculinity are changing. Drake’s music symbolizes this change, and his popularity speaks volumes about where we are as a generation of listeners.

A Phenomenal Read: The Fault in Our Stars

By Sarah Rozenberg
Staff Writer

“What?”
“Okay.”
Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters meet each other for the first time by chance. Although is it really chance? When the two teenagers start chatting after support group, they decide to go watch a movie together, thus beginning their relationship. They soon find that they cannot live without each other, and early on do everything from playing video games, to reading the same books, to sitting on the couch doing nothing together. One book in particular catches both of their attention, titled An Imperial Affliction. They go so far as to email the author of the book, Peter van Houten, asking him to answer a few questions they have about the ending. When van Houten replies saying he cannot share the information through email, Hazel is both disappointed and angry. Augustus, wanting nothing more than to make Hazel happy, finds a way to learn the answers to their questions. And so begins their journey in encountering explanations, while along the way learning more about themselves and each other than they ever could have imagined. Hazel’s and Augustus’s story is just one story in a multitude of others. Theirs is special, but not more special than anyone else’s. They are just two stars in a sky full of millions.

“But even if we survive the collapse of our sun, we will not survive forever.”

“I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity.”

John Green has done a remarkable job of writing The Fault in Our Stars. This is a book that will pierce straight through your heart every time you read it, and yet you will find yourself reading it over and over again. Books like this one do not come around very often. It will make you think about life and appreciate everything you have even more. Not many authors can make his or her readers feel as many emotions as John Green does in this book. The story of Hazel and Augustus will speak to you more than any other story has in the past. It is a roller coaster of feelings that go up as much as down with every page turn. You will find yourself reading it cover to cover in one heart shattering sitting, leaving you in tears. The Fault in Our Stars is one of the finest books I have read in a long time. The words John Green writes will leave an impression on your heart that will have it beating faster by the time you finish the last word.

The official movie poster for The Fault in Our Stars. (Variety)
Variety

Movie review: Her
By AJ Beltis
Staff Writer

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What do you get when you combine romance, sci-fi and comedy? Her. Spike Jonze’s film is essentially a two hour social commentary on our addiction to technology, specifically our smartphones. In Her, a middle-aged divorcee, Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), downloads a new Operating System, whose voice is sensually provided by Scarlett Johansson. After reading a book on naming

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in less than a second, the operating system tells Theodore it’s decided on Samantha. Samantha’s artificial intelligence causes her to want to learn about society, communication, and Theodore at an alarmingly exponential rate. ‘The two become inseparable, which worries his neighbor Amy (Amy Adams) and frustrates his ex-wife Catherine (Rooney Mara) - both of whom are portrayed by talented actresses that bring our focus to them but unfortunately don’t appear on screen as much as some would have liked.

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While I was intrigued by the developing relationship of Samantha and Theodore, their spats, their sexual encounters, and their long sleepless nights together, Jonze could have gotten the valuable underlying messages of the movie across better if he had treated the movie as an experiment, spending equal time comparing the experimental relationships with the placebo relationships. Instead of comparing these relationships, Her is mostly composed of Joaquin Phoenix sitting in an empty room and pausing for where Scarlett Johansson would later dub her dialogue. With a better balance of exposing us to these three different relationships (obviously giving slightly more focus to Samantha), I feel like the movie’s messages would have come across more clearly and would have made Her worthwhile.

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This movie received 3.5 out of 5 Bulldogs

The College Scoop

The Stanford Daily
Stanford College

Plans for a Stanford University program in New York City have been taking shape in the last few weeks. Stanford University has recently submitted a 115 page proposal to the New York State Board of Education. According to Sharon Palmer ’90, associate vice provost of undergraduate education, the quarter-long Stanford in New York City program will be modeled after the popular Bing Stanford in Washington program. Rather than focusing on politics and policy, however, the New York City program will emphasize the arts, architecture, design, and urban studies.

The Miscellany News
Vassar College

Vassar College has had co-ed dormitories since the 1990’s, and the term “gender neutral bathrooms” has come into use in the last 15 years. Today, college community members are working to expand gender neutral bathrooms to every building on campus. In anticipation, a coalition of students, faculty and staff have planned a push in the coming months to increase campus awareness around them. VP for Student Life Danny Dones said that opposition to gender neutral bathrooms stems mainly from misunderstandings about specifics of the plan and its implementation.

The University Star
Texas State University

Fifty years after Martin Luther King made his famous speech, the dream for Americans to be judged by character rather than skin color still seems to be light-years away from becoming reality. The line between “the suspect is a black male” and “black males are suspect” remains dangerously thin. As seen with Trayvon Martin and the eventual acquittal of his killer George Zimmerman, the line between simple profiling and overt racism can have a costly price, especially for blacks. Racial profiling by law enforcement is still one of the biggest civil rights issues in the U.S. One of the most important reasons racial profiling needs to be opposed is because the government has already inadvertently legitimized the practice through various forms of media exposed to the general public.

The Poetry Corner

Success Proverb
by Kyle Georgeu

It cannot be seen nor touched like a spirit in the night sky. It's locked inside a gate that only few find the key to its life. But everyone is on the search. It's never measured with the same ruler. The definition is like a painting, worth a thousand words. No black, no white, just areas of gray. It doesn't come easy nor is it easy to keep. Expect it, don't add it to the Christmas wish list. If it isn’t a charity, no one is going to donate it. Demons will drag you down to the bottom like weights. The journey will be treacherous. Put the extra reps in, get stronger, and shake them off. Wrecking balls will try to crash through your walls. Build it up, piece by piece, until it is high as the sky itself. No regrets, just move forward. Only look back if you plan on going that way. Just keep running like Usain Bolt. Remember you are a loser until proven a winner. Put in the extra work and be the best. That's why it's important to separate yourself from the rest. And achieve this little phenomenon that I call success.
Comics of the Week

By Molly Funk
Staff Writer

Capricorn & Cancer
This is a complex friendship that can appear dysfunctional but in reality, is simply two friends who expect much from each other. Capricorn brings rationality and simplicity to the friendship, while Cancer contributes feelings and emotions. Both friends value safety and security leading them to be both traditional and reliable. To assist each other, Cancer will help Capricorn enjoy the benefits of hard work and Capricorn will teach Cancer to control their emotions. Both signs tend to enjoy high-quality material items such as a spacious home, distinguished art, sleek cars and designer clothes—importantly they’re both willing to work hard for their comforts. Cancers and Capricorns are fiercely loyal to each other: these are the friends you will see helping the other with a tough group project or quizzing for an exam.

Gemini & Sagittarius
This is a highly compatible friendship as Sagittarius is innovative and energetic and Gemini is flexible and intellectual. This is that “two peas in a pod” friendship, the two roommates who you never see without the other, whether it be in class, at Effin’s, or watching a Bryant basketball game. The two tend to jump from one topic to another without cluing in outsiders. Many people find it challenging to hang out with the Gemini and Sagittarius pair as they are so in sync, conversation is nearly impossible to follow. The friendship feeds off both physical and mental excitement, and have no problem abandoning plans if they appear too boring.

Aries & Taurus
This partnership of signs leads to a long-lasting relationship. Aries is attracted to the calm and patient nature of the Taurus, who in turn is intrigued with Aries wild, impulsive side. In the friendship Aries will receive loyalty and stability. Together they teach each other how to get the most out of life. Aries keeps the friendship lively and interesting whereas Taurus checks impulses with reason. This is not the “two peas in a pod” friendship; it is more like your best friend from home who you’ve known since preschool: a completely trustworthy relationship without many disagreements.

Aquarius & Leo
There is seldom a dreary moment in the friendship of Leo and Aquarius—the pair sparkles compared to other friendships due to their innovation and ideas. These friends rarely experience conflict and are zealous about life, loving action and adventure. Leo encourages Aquarius to put their ideas into practice. Aquarius impresses Leo with their creativity and outward vision. Neither of the pair enjoy staying idle and are constantly searching for new opportunity. Leo and Aquarius will work well in teams and on special projects. This friendship is loyal and long-lasting.

Pisces & Libra
This is a harmonious and well matched combination—both friends are open and honest with each other, striving for peace. Both are intellectual and sentimental personalities who often have action and excitement in their lives. Pisces and Libra are active and enthusiastic and seek out strong, long-term friendships. They aim to help each other as much as possible and necessary, neither feel the need to steal the spotlight. The similarity in character of both the Pisces and Libra, combined with their shared ambition for success, make them the perfect friends.

Scorpio & Virgo
Scorpio and Virgo experience a deep, meaningful friendship, one that has a great opportunity to become romantic if interest allows. These signs share a faithful bond, preferring to spend time alone rather than with a large group. Personal goals of both Virgo and Scorpio include fame and fortune, which they are more than willing to help each other achieve. Virgo can teach Scorpio that outward appearances are not always significant, while Scorpio can assist Virgo in decoding their emotions. This friendship is apt at working as a team due to the balance of Virgo’s practicality and Scorpio’s passion.