**OpEd: lost Malaysian plane theories**

Our resident news analyst, Nick, adds his two cents on the plane disappearance

By Nick Calabro

Staff Writer

Several weeks ago, the world took notice of its newest disappearance, one that may be similar to the “Bermuda Triangle stories.” A big difference is that this happened on the other side of the world. But, what is not so different, is the presence of several theories that attempt to explain what, so far, cannot be explained (better known as conspiracy theories). These are the attempts to answer the questions about Malaysia Airlines Flight 738.

Conspiracy theories tend to be dismissed at first for an apparent lack of real evidence associated with them. Personally, I would prefer if we thoroughly looked for evidence before asserting that we have the answer, but let’s see if these theories have any merit to them.

The first theory indicates that the plane has landed in the Andaman Islands, between Indonesia and the coasts of Thailand and Myanmar. Reportedly, the radar would quite possibly be off, due to perceived low threat levels. However, also according to reports, they would spot a plane landing; at the same time it would also be the best place to steal the plane. But there is a problem with this theory; it is very difficult to land on a beach, as pieces of sand can damage the undercarriage. You could keep the landing gear up to prevent this, but that has its own problems.

People have also theorized that the plane is in Kazakhstan. For one thing, it is easier to land in the desert than on the beach, and it would still be isolated. It is believed that a valuable load would be motivation for a hijacking. However, it is likely that this plane would have been detected by countries which are more often than not in a high state of military preparedness, though they could have mistaken it for a flock of birds.

Another theory is that it landed in the Taklamakan Desert in northwestern China and a group of Chinese separatists called the Uighurs took control of the plane, and landed it in the Taklamakan Desert for reasons unknown. But the only evidence appears to be that most of the passengers were Chinese, making this difficult to support. Regardless, the plane would have still needed to perform the extraordinary feat of going through several radar systems undetected.

The next theory states that the plane was flown toward Langkawi Island for safety. The pilot needed to make an emergency landing, and the friendliest place for it was Palau Langkawi. It is believed that the airline tragically crashed into the sea. According to reports, it does not appear that there are any signs that there was some malfunction with the plane. Furthermore, a turn made in an emergency would likely be done with manual control, but that turn was caused by a typing sequence in the cockpit.

There is also a theory that the plane was stolen and is now in Pakistan, though other than a comparison to Osama Bin Laden there do not seem to be any arguments supporting this one. But, Pakistan has said that if this was the case they would have found it. Remember, this is a country with a high degree of military preparedness, so their radar would have found it. Also the area is closely watched by other countries, so it is very hard to believe that the plane could be there undetected.

Yet another theory is that the plane was in the shadow of another airliner (Singapore Airlines flight 68) in its vicinity, and therefore was effectively disguised. This is how it would have gotten through several nations’ airspace by it and SIA 68 appearing as one blip. Of all the theories, this one sounds the most reasonable as it
LARCENY
Mar 17, 2014-Monday at 13:18
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of a stolen end table which was taken during break. Lock problem on suite door being repaired by Locksmith Dave Fahey.

VANDALISM (SCHOOL BUILDING)
Mar 19, 2014-Wednesday at 02:45
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report that someone had damaged a toilet in the men’s room of a Residence Hall. Facilities and HVAC called to respond.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT
Mar 19, 2014-Wednesday at 22:45
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of a possible Domestic Disturbance in a Residence Hall. SPD was contacted and responded. A Bryant student was arrested by Smithfield Police and charged with Domestic Violence/Simple Assault.

VANDALISM (AUTO)
Mar 20, 2014-Thursday at 14:08
Location: TOWNHOUSE CIRCLE LOT
Summary: A student reported his vehicle had been vandalized.

POSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
Mar 21, 2014-Monday at 23:31
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS was asked to investigate a report of possible drug activity. A DPS officer found a small amount of drugs and a pipe. The items were confiscated and destroyed.

MEDICAL EVALUATION
Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 00:20
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of an intoxicated female. The female was transported to Fatima Hospital by rescue.

March 22, 2014-Saturday at 01:27
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of the vandalism of a paper towel dispenser in the third floor men's bathroom.

VANDALISM
Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 11:46
Location: TOWNHOUSE
Summary: DPS received a report of vandalism to a Townhouse window.

FIRE ALARM
Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 20:17
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: A fire alarm received in a Residence hall was found to be caused by an expelled fire extinguisher. The Smithfield Fire Department responded, the alarm was reset and ruled as malicious.

EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED
Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 21:29
Location: TOWNHOUSE
Summary: DPS received a call from RI State 911 reporting a person having an asthma attack. EMS was activated. Smithfield Fire Department transported one person to Fatima Hospital for treatment.

DUI ARREST
Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 23:39
Location: ENTRY CONTROL STATION
Summary: A DPS officer on post at the Entry Control Station reported a possible intoxicated driver. One student was arrested by the Smithfield Police.

VANDALISM (AUTO)
Mar 23, 2014-Monday at 06:20
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a call reporting vandalism to a student’s vehicle.

LARCENY
Mar 23, 2014-Monday at 08:22
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of the theft of an X-box and controller. Smithfield Police Department was called to take a report.

VANDALISM (AUTO)
Mar 23, 2014-Sunday at 08:02
Location: BRYANT POND
Summary: DPS received a report of a golf cart in the Bryant pond. The vehicle was on the Bella Centre side, and the front wheels were submerged. Willy’s towing was called to remove the vehicle from the pond.

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Mar 22, 2014-Saturday at 01:27
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: DPS received a report of the vandalism of paper towel dispenser in the third floor men’s bathroom.

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Department of Public Safety Log

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APRIL FOOLS’ DAY!

The Archway is printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

Department of Public Safety Log

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Applied Math and Statistics Major 

By Delaney Carr 
Contributing Writer

People often ask me why I’m an Applied Math and Statistics (AMS) major rather than an Actuarial Mathematics (Act) major. The truth is, I started out as an actuarial major but switched halfway through my sophomore year. Part of the reason for that is because the AMS major has a wider variety of courses. As a student in this program, I have only four required courses and the rest are electives! I love this flexibility because I was able to receive a balance of both mathematics and statistics courses. This major is perfect for students interested in a mathematical career other than the actuarial field because we are able to take courses that will best apply to our future. For me, I knew that I wanted to attend graduate school for education upon my graduation from Bryant. Therefore, I took as many “pure math” courses as possible, such as number theory and geometry.

Although I am interested in a career in education, many AMS majors pursue careers in statistics. Bryant’s SAS certification program is a major highlight of the AMS major. This program trains students in statistical programming and analyzing advanced statistical models. The problem solving aspect and technical knowledge gained in these courses are beneficial for students with many different career paths in mind, not necessarily only SAS professionals. Furthermore, the business background that Bryant gives us allows us to be successful in whatever career path we choose, and often times give us an advantage over job applicants from other programs.

My favorite part of my AMS major, though, is the flexibility. All of the professors I have had are dedicated individuals who genuinely care about helping us succeed in our time at Bryant and beyond. I am so grateful that I ended up in this program; it has very well prepared me for my future in both graduate school and the professional world.

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By Gianna Romito
Contributing Writer

Hello Bryant University Students and Staff! On behalf of the Student Senate, we hope everyone had a relaxing yet productive spring break. But with spring break, comes the harsh yet bittersweet reality that the academic year is coming to a close. It’s crazy how last year has flown by! But, the 2013-2014 Student Senate still has some work to do before we can close the books on these past 9 months. Last Wednesday, the student senate met for our weekly meeting in which we discussed hot topics and issues that seem to be prevalent on campus. One of the most recent spring break topics that I haven’t heard much discussion about is student behavior on campus. As sad as it is to see Sodexo go, the Student Senate is excited to see what will become of Salmo and Nick’s Place next semester. Another huge event that will be coming in the next couple of weeks is RED day in which Red Friday and commerce students (Red Friday is not directly associated with Student Senate) and our very own Academic Affairs Chair, Dan Minor, has worked on for the last couple of months. We can’t wait to see how it will pan out.

As you can see, there is still some exciting news and events that still make their way to senate meetings and become hot topics of discussion. But, besides mentioning the latest and greatest news, updates, and issues on campus, we also have to mention that it’s that time of year in which elections packets go out! Executive board packets are due on March 24th. Some of the open positions include President, Vice President, Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, Secretary, and Treasurer in which all eligible candidates must at least have one year experience on senate and 100 signatures from undergraduate members of the Bryant Community. The President seems to be known as the “face” of Student Senate and is respected as one of the highest honored roles to achieve during academic studies that can enable a student to gain strong interpersonal, leadership, and social skills. Following the responsibility of the president is the co- vice presidents, the E-VP and Vice President of Clubs and Organizations (commonly referred to as the VPCOs). These essential positions handle board meetings, as well as secretary and treasurer all have important roles at Bryant. If you’re interested in hearing the speeches of our executive board candidates, come to the senate meeting this Wednesday, March 26th and please be on time! Voting for the executive board will take place on March 31st and April 1st in the rotunda.

If you’re interested in becoming a member of the legislative body, election packets will be available on March 31st, no prior Student Senate experience necessary! The Student Senate is always looking for fresh faces to represent their classes. Five seats are available per class and voting will take place on April 7th and 8th. For more information and any questions regarding elections contact Secretary Emmanuel Baland at EBalandi@bryant.edu. We look forward to the coming weeks ahead as we get ready for RED day, receiving more news about Bryant regarding who is a leftie, and the school year comes to a close. We look forward to the new Bryant University Student Senate for the 2014-2015 academic-year.

Congratulations Aubrey! 

By Alison MacLeod
ESL Writing Specialist

Being a Coed in 1960

As time chugs along its path to tomorrow, I often find myself reflecting on some of the changes that continue to materialize as todays become yesterdays. College, for example, is not at all the same experience now as it was for me, half a century ago. Imagine if time travel was possible, today’s students could take a field trip to the 1960’s and immerse themselves in cultures they can now only read about.

Instead of studying abroad in China or Australia, how about “Sampling the Sixties” or “Finding the Fifties”? Rather than reading about the Viet Nam War protests or the infamous Woodstock Folk Festival, actually go there and live it! World War II, the Red Scare, Sputnik, Viet Nam, JFK, the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, Elvis and the Beatles, hula hoops, pet rocks, and much, much more, currently only artifacts of the historic twentieth century, could acquire tangible reality.

Of particular interest to me are the linguistic changes that have come about over the years. Common words, such as “dude” or “awesome” have taken on new shades of meaning, while others have simply faded into the sunset. One change that especially intrigues me is the trend toward granting verb status to nouns. For example, thanks to Facebook, the noun friend has assumed verb status, replete with associated attributes such as tense, person, and voice. It now has an opposite — unfriend. I wonder what my kindly old English 101 professor would have made of that.

Likewise, — has anyone noticed any not-so-subtle changes in its use? No longer a simple intransitive verb or comparative preposition (“I like chocolate” or “My love is like a red rose”), we now use it as a lead-in to states toward granting verb status to nouns. For example, thanks to Facebook, the noun friend has assumed verb status, replete with associated attributes such as tense, person, and voice. It now has an opposite — unfriend. I wonder what my kindly old English 101 professor would have made of that.

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'Strange Days in New Orleans': A Night Under the Stars

By Yiran Dong
Contributing Writer

Invited by China's first lady Peng Liyuan, US first lady Michelle Obama, with her mother and two daughters, is paying a 7-day visit to China this week from March 20th to March 26th. According to the normal schedule, Michelle and her group will visit the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and go to three cities and three schools. What's more, Michelle will make two speeches, host a round-table meeting, and have dinner with President Xi Jinping on Wednesday.

Once a popular singer and now the first lady of China, the role of Peng Liyuan is very simple. She is to set up a new image in the mind of the Chinese people: "mother of the country": dignified, noble, talented, elegant, graceful, confident, and, of course, understanding of the fashion. By contrast, her counterpart, Michelle Obama, the first lady of the US, had once brought a great shock to American fashion. That is, she chose Chinese and Cuban design in the inaugural ceremony of her husband, President Barack Obama.

Therefore, for this rare "double beauty meeting," "what to talk about" is actually of less importance since "nothing is new". Compared with the political topics, "what to wear" by the two ladies is of greater concern. Both the two ladies were born in the 1960s. Definitely, they attract more attention in terms of attire. Just as expected, when they gather together, what they wear arouses great public interest. Let us review the fashion the two first ladies have followed under the public eye.

SASS Speaks Out Sunday

Continued from page 1

superhero who needed a hearing aid. We don't often think of superheroes having ordinary human problems, but for one boy, the connection he found with Blue Ear changed his life.

Bill's talk was upbeat and surely made everyone wish they worked at the comic book giant. More importantly, as Bill casually switched from speaker to host, he left the audience with something that maybe everyone needs to think about. It doesn't take a million dollars or all the time in the world to make a difference, it takes just one person who cares. Engaged and excited to see who would appear next, R.J. Mitte stepped onto the stage. There had been a lot of buzz about him leading up to the event, and he didn't disappoint, as a few girls swooned in the audience. He shared his experiences living with cerebral palsy, treating it as an advantage of the fact that he shares the stage with people with physical challenges. He told the audience that he was ecstatic to be there and shamelessly took the opportunity to accept those around us for who they are.

This diverse group of actors and actresses engaged and excited to see who would appear next, R.J. Mitte stepped onto the stage. There had been a lot of buzz about him leading up to the event, and he didn't disappoint, as a few girls swooned in the audience. He shared his experiences living with cerebral palsy, treating it as an advantage of the fact that he shares the stage with people with physical challenges. He told the audience that he was ecstatic to be there and shamelessly took the opportunity to accept those around us for who they are.

He is part of 2% of the acting world that has a disability, but being the 2% is what makes him outstanding and has given him these opportunities. And as he assures us he could button his own shirt, he urged us to use our own privileges to stop bullying and the stigma around people with disabilities. We all use social media in one form or another; so use it for good, so's to do something productive, he suggested.

Next was the bundle of joy that is Andy Bryant; the woman simply exudes personality and sweetness. She was ecstatic to be there and shamelessly took advantage of the fact that she shares the name of our university. Though she was slated to discuss body image in her time here, she opted to take us down the sometimes awkward and always funny series of failures that led her to Saturday Night Live. From unhappy Texas Police Chiefs to murder mystery musical gone wrong, she is living proof that there isn't a perfect path to success. There are always bumps in the road to where you want to be, but commitment and the brazen courage to just put yourself out or can lead you in the right direction. Now she writes for the show her heroes created. Her skits don't always get chosen because apparently hot undies at sleepovers isn't what they are looking for, but you can't please everyone.

That idea resonated infinitely with final speaker Laverne Cox, a transgender woman breaking down barriers in society. She told us of the violence and discrimination transgender people face across the nation as well as her own struggle to claim her identity. This seemed like the most daunting of tasks when she began her story in the deep southern city of Mobile, Alabama, but as she slowly found her way and her courage to become the woman she had always known she was.

She did finally end up in a dress in New Orleans just as her school teacher had once threatened her mother. Cox's perspective on gender roles and conformity were eye-opening. Why are we so concerned with being the "gender police" and placing everyone into these neat little boxes of male or female based on biology? She encouraged the audience not to force people into conformity and to accept those around us for who they are. And with a toss of her hair, she left an audience pondering what kind of world they wanted to live in.

This diverse group of actors and creators spoke to many different hopes of life that everyone could connect to in one way or another. Whether looking for the courage to pursue a dream that once seemed crazy, or assurance in the fact that you shouldn't conform for the benefit of others, they covered it all and were very entertaining in the process. It was a great event on SASS's part; they spoke out and they spoke out loud.

Formal dress vs. casual wear:

On March 21st, Peng wore a formal blue suit with a China-red underlining, which made her look very graceful. On her feet was a pair of black heels. What was eye-catching was the red purse in her hand, which was quite different from the China-red underlining, and added a somewhat vivacious style to her classic look as well. While Michelle picked a white shirt covered with a black vest. With the black trousers she had, she gave people a sense of confidence, independence, freedom and strength. The fashion elements of the dress also suggested the adventurous American spirit. Such casual wear is typical of American culture, which easily reminded people of her husband, President Barack Obama.

A meeting of two ladies vs. a link of two cultures:

The meeting between Peng Liyuan and Michelle Obama has fulfilled a colorful journey full of fashion. Both the two first ladies have highlighted the culture that they represent and they wish to promote. Judging from the attire, Peng Liyuan, with her noble, gentle, Chinese-style beauty, showed her diligence, friendship, and the hospitality to the American guests. She has skillfully played her role as the hostess. While Michelle Obama, with her dresses on different occasions, has demonstrated her confidence, independence, amiability, boldness, and passion to the Chinese people. As a messenger of the American spirit, she has also successfully fulfilled her mission. Indeed, the meeting of two first ladies is a link of two cultures.

Hearts of Hope

By Dylan Paiva
Contributing Writer

The Hearts of Hope foundation is a "pay it forward" community service program, which prides itself on its ability to spread hope to those who need it most. Hearts of Hope does this by painting beautiful keepsake hearts, each with its own personalized message of hope, and delivers them to those in need.

The committee is being established so that Bryant students can "pay it forward" and recruit students to paint their very own hearts which they can send to various locations and people. We are looking for students of any age or grade who are interested in helping this amazing organization! We have multiple spots available on the committee. The president will conduct orders such as scheduling painting events, recruiting new members, and managing the group. One person will be the ambassador and keep contact with the Hearts of Hope organization. A treasurer will also be needed to manage finances such as how much blank hearts are purchased and how much funding the committee gets. Preferably, these higher positions will be filled by upper classman.

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On March 22nd and April 23rd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm outside of the Fisher Student Center.

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The Bryant Hearts of Hope committee and the hearts painted at the painting parties will not only spread hope to those in need of it most, but also, spread the success and reach of the Hearts of Hope foundation. The people who are receiving these hearts are going through a rough time and can use any type of support to help them get through their difficult situation. So come on down and help a great cause and pay it forward!
Waste as a resource?

By May Vickers
Staff Writer

Most individuals categorize waste as "trash" or "garbage" because many people think about waste with an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality. Waste is something that people do not want to see on a daily basis but individuals should reconsider their beliefs and begin to view waste as a resource. With recent advances in technology and innovation, waste can be used as a resource to create a sustainable future. Major companies like Waste Management with headquarters in Houston, Texas, have created technologies such as bioreactor landfills to analyze waste as an economic resource. Waste Management utilizes industry solutions in categories such as food and retail, commercial property, manufacturing and industrial, recycling, construction, universities and many other areas requiring solutions in categories such as food and retail, commercial property, manufacturing and industrial, recycling, construction, universities and many other areas requiring temporary), the piles of trash never run out. Most of our waste ends up in landfills. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has labeled landfill gas as a renewable energy source that could potentially be an alternative source of energy to fossil fuels. For example, Waste Management currently produces over five hundred and fifty megawatts of electricity which can power over four hundred and forty thousand homes. This amount of energy is equivalent to offsetting over 2.2 million tons of coal per year. Land-fill gas has produced more energy than the entire solar power industry in the United States of America. If land-fill gas can be used in conjunction with other sources of alternative energy, America may have a chance to gradually convert from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Waste Management also uses waste to energy facilities that combust trash in a controlled and efficient system which recovers energy from the combustion process. These facilities are equipped with air emission control systems that reduce potential emissions. The trash is transferred from a feed hopper to a boiler, in which a metal grate slowly moves the trash through a heating process. The temperature exceeds two thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The thermal energy is recovered in the form of high pressure steam which turns a turbine which turns a generator to produce electricity. This process is very similar to processes which occur in nuclear or coal power plants. Using this process, the overall volume of trash is reduced by over ninety percent. From bioreactor technologies to utilization of landfill gas as a renewable energy source, further research will be needed to determine the potential of waste as a future resource.

Duke University is educating a pornstar

Miriam Weeks, 18, works to pay her $60,000 of tuition and defends her transparency to the Huffington Post

By Kofo Adediji
Contributing Writer

An 18 year old Duke University freshman, Miriam Weeks, has recently gained a lot of attention for her decision to do porn to pay for Duke University’s annual $60,000 tuition. It all started after Thomas Bagley, a Phi Delta Theta pledge, allegedly broke his promise and leaked Miriam Weeks’ secret during a fraternity event. Since then, the news has travelled from the grapevine of Duke University to the internet. The Independent reports that the freshman’s story has more hits on Google than Pope Francis and Justin Bieber combined.

Since her secret has been out, the 18 year old has appeared in national news including the popular CNN’s Pierson Morgan Live. Ms. Weeks, a women and gender studies major, explains that she sought out porn as a way for her to graduate from her dream school. Despite much criticism, she maintains that her experience with porn has been “supportive, exciting, thrilling, and empowering”. As to the question of the difficulty she could face in getting a job after she graduates, the aspiring lawyer replies that she wouldn’t want to work for an employer who discriminates against sex workers.

While Miriam Weeks is not the first college student in the history of the world to turn to sex work to pay for college, she is one of the few to speak to a large audience in defense of herself. According to her, “we are in a society where we are so repressed, every single day. We’re told that sex is bad...to be in porn and to be able to be naked and to be able to be free and have that sexual autonomy, it is so incredibly freeing.” She continues to unapologetically shoot porn in LA to finance her education.

Despite her strong resolve, Ms. Weeks tells The Huffington Post that since her identity was revealed, every day “is like a nightmare.” She has received threats to rape and kill her from strangers. She is also extremely concerned about her family’s safety as their identities have also been revealed online. She continues to attend college and hopes to change peoples’ views on sex work.

Lost Malaysian plane disappearance theories

Continued from page 1

takes into account the radar systems of other nations. But according to reports, there is something that this does not consider. That would be the difference between military and civilian radar. Civilian radar uses a transponder on the aircraft, where military radar uses a higher resolution primary radar, which would probably be able to tell the difference between the two, unless they were just dangerously close together.

What about the flight pattern of the plane, and erratic changes in altitude? It had gone very high above its “ceiling” and then very low. According to one theory, this was done by the pilot in an attempt to throw off potential hijackers, but this does not explain where the plane could be. According to another theory, the passengers were killed by decapitation when the plane got to 45,000 feet, reportedly so they could not use their phones. But, this theory is plagued by the likelihood that the pilot and copilot would have killed themselves in the process. A final theory is that the plane is going to be used in a terrorist attack, similar to 9/11. However, it is also very difficult to steal a plane, hide it, refuel it, add a new transponder, and take it off again all without being detected.

So most of these theories sound impractical or are just impossible. But, just because they sound that way, does it mean that these conspiracy theories, and all others for that matter, should be entirely dismissed? Personally, I would say not necessarily. As outlandish as they sound, we are forced to think more critically about the situation when they are present. We must continue to ask questions, and not fall into the trap of believing whatever we hear from the mainstream.

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New Addition to Starbucks Menu: Wine and Beer

By Jenna Husted
Contributing Writer

Starbucks is known and loved for its coffee, drinks, breakfast foods and snacks. We are soon, however, going to have a different view of this cafe.

In addition to the Frappuccino's, lattes, hot chocolates, Teavana tea, and much more, Starbucks has decided that they are now going to add alcohol to the menu. Yes, that means beer and wine. It is called "Starbucks Evenings" and is going to include bottled beer, wine, and a selection to meet the local preferences depending on the location of the store.

They have chosen not to sell hard liquor in order to keep the relaxing and friendly, traditional environment. According to the Chief Operating Officer Troy Alstead, thousands of stores across the United States are going to have the evening program implemented into their daily operations. This will take a few years to come into effect in all of these stores, but the company has officially made it a definite decision.

In order to expand the business, Starbucks has continued to sell non-coffee items such as juice, and more lunch options. Their efforts to not just have the breakfast items and attract a crowd for lunch and late afternoon snacks has proved to be successful, so why not add evening with alcohol into the mix of offerings?

According to the Chicago Tribune, this plan is expected to almost double the company's market value to $100 billion. It is also said to significantly increase sales during the later part of the day. The evening menu will open at 4 p.m., on which alcohol and "light bites" or appetizers will be options for customers up until closing time. Those serving the alcohol will have to be 21 or older, and will be carding all.

"It is called "Starbucks Evenings" and is going to include bottled beer, wine, and a selection to meet the local preferences depending on the location of the store."

This is something that may also attract a new and different crowd, while still being able to keep a hold on the traditional Starbucks environment that many people favored from the start. They intend to stay a predominately coffee store, and not turn into a bar. Starbucks does not want to change people's views with this program, and is really just working to cater to the desires of more customers.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek, there are currently only about 40 stores (in Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, Portland, and Washington, D.C.) that offer the evening food and drinks as a test to see how well it will work in the future. Evidently, the company quickly found out that these new additions were a clear success.

However, Alstead commented that this is not exactly going to work in all Starbucks settings. This is because the locations are serving alcohol in more urban areas where there are nearby restaurants, theaters, and other nightlife attractions. With that being said, the alcohol menu will be sold in select stores, and is not something that will be incorporated into every Starbucks.

It will be interesting to see how this plays out for Starbucks in the upcoming years, as they are already a very popular, successful, and continuously growing company. This new evening program will hopefully get customers to stop by, not just in the morning but at all times of the day.

Weekly Business Quote

"I have made the tough decisions, always with an eye toward the bottom line. Perhaps it's time America was run like a business."

- Donald Trump

Business

March 26, 2014

College Basketball's Most Valuable Teams 2014

1. Louisville Cardinals
Team value: $39.5 million
This marks the third straight year that Louisville holds the top spot. That dominance is largely the result of revenue from ticket sales ($11.5 million) and contributions ($21.5 million). The Cardinals also won last year's NCAA Tournament, which will net the AAC a total of $7.7 million over six years.

2. Kansas Jayhawks
Team value: $33 million
Kansas' basketball program has always been a top financial power, but the team now bests even Louisville in some categories, such as ticket sales ($12.9 million). The Jayhawks are one of just two Big 12 teams on our list; the other, Texas, is at No. 16.

3. Kentucky Wildcats
Team value: $32.5 million
Since we began ranking the sport's most valuable teams in 2008, Indiana has never once ranked outside the top six. Two consecutive trips to the Sweet 16 improved the team's value to $17.4 million - the conference collected nearly $2 million last year just from the Hoosiers' play.

4. North Carolina Tar Heels
Team value: $25.7 million
The team lost an average of $3.2 million last year, but the house is still the only one to land both teams in the top ten. Two recent trips to the Final Four should help make up for a tough 2012-13 season.

5. Indiana Hoosiers
Team value: $25.4 million
Since we began ranking the sport's most valuable teams in 2008, Indiana has never once ranked outside the top six. Two consecutive trips to the Sweet 16 improved the team's value to $17.4 million - the conference collected nearly $2 million last year just from the Hoosiers' play.

6. Arizona Wildcats
Team value: $25.2 million
Arizona has shown on the court this season, losing just three games during the regular season, and it's performed even better off of it - the team's 29% growth in value is second-highest among the sport's most valuable teams. The surge in value is largely tied to the Pac-12's new TV deal kicking in, though the Wildcats are still the only team from the conference to make our list.

7. Ohio State Buckeyes
Team value: $22.9 million
Six schools were able to place teams on our valuations lists for both football and basketball, but OSU is the only one to land both teams in the top ten, Buckeyes football ranked No. 9 with a value of $83 million. The athletic department contributed $5 million to academic endeavors last year.

8. Wisconsin Badgers
Team value: $21.1 million
The Badgers have not missed the NCAA Tournament since 1998, but in that time they've only once made it to the Final Four. Head coach Ryan still received a five-year contract extension in 2012.

9. Syracuse Orange
Team value: $21 million
Four trips to (or past) the Sweet 16 in the last five years helped the team generate over $4.3 million, in conference payouts last year. As a private school, Syracuse spends more on basketball scholarships than any other team on our list; the other, Texas, is at No. 16.

10. Duke Blue Devils
Team value: $18.9 million
Just five teams generate more basketball revenue than Duke, but the Blue Devils' profits aren't driven by high spending. In fact, only Louisville spent more on men's basketball last year, and the two were the only teams to break $15 million in expenses. No other team in the country spent more than $14 million last year, and only seven were above the $10 million mark.

Graph of the week

Picking Order
What big bank CEOs were paid for their work in 2013, in millions

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<th>CEO</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
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<td>James Gorman</td>
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Source: World-Steet Journal
Bulldogs tennis showing they are one of the conference’s elite teams

By Justin Beaucage
Sports Editor

Sometimes, there are sports and teams here at Bryant that don’t receive the recognition and credit they ultimately deserve. With so many other teams being focused on and so many great programs here at the university, some sports can fly under the radar, and not receive the ultimate praise they deserve.

The Bulldogs’ tennis team should not be one of those teams, and the Bryant community should really begin to take notice.

What this team has been able to do this season has been simply incredible. Thus far, the men’s team has had a great spring, beginning the season with a 10-9 record. They are also undefeated in conference play, and also boast an undefeated record at home at 4-0. Not only are the Bulldogs protecting their house, but they are making sure other teams in the NEC know about them.

Going back to the fall, the Bulldogs opened the season winning six of their first eight matches. However, Bryant faced a very difficult stretch this winter, as they went on a four match losing streak against some of the tougher teams in the region. Tough losses against Buffalo and Harvard were great competition for the Bulldogs, but it was still difficult for them to handle the loss. Bryant suffered one of its worst losses against Brown, 11-0, and the Bulldogs needed to find a way to fight back and salvage their season.

Throughout the country. To be able to work hard and pull off this win with their talent, the Great Danes’ community because they were considered the team with the best offense playing on their home field. This was an incredibly important game and shocking to the Northeast Conference playoff game against Saint Francis several weeks ago, it can still be hard to turn the page on their season. However, channeling energy into another team is generating.

According to the Bryant Bulldogs’ athletic website, “the Bryant University men’s lacrosse team continues its move up the national polls and receives its highest ranking in Division 1 program history.” The team was ranked as number 15 in the country as they continue on with their 2014 season.

The men’s lacrosse team earned this ranking recently because of their wins against top-rated teams. One of these games included Bryant’s trip to Albany, New York to compete against the University of Albany’s Great Danes in a highly competitive match. The Bryant Bulldogs came out on top in a 12-11 victory over the Great Danes who were playing on their home field. This was an incredibly important game and shocking to the Great Danes’ community because they were considered the team with the best offense throughout the country. To be able to work hard and pull off this win with their talent, Bryant men’s lacrosse has showed so far their resilience and dedication to making this a great, successful season.

What better way to turn the page on a sad ending for one season by introducing all their season. There is excitement and anticipation regarding the team and the student body is behind them every step of the way, through the wins and the losses.

Kevin Massa is one of the nation’s best players and has led the Bulldogs to a great season (MCT Campus)

Kevin Massa is one of the nation’s best players and has led the Bulldogs to a great season (MCT Campus)

Bulldogs’ senior Dana Parizale led the team to a convincing victory against Quinnipiac (MCT Campus)

However, despite the losses, the Bulldogs were resilient and showed great toughness bouncing back against former conference rival Quinnipiac this past weekend. Bryant was able to pick up the win on their rival, 5-2. Led by great performances by senior Dana Parizale and freshman John Templeman, the Bulldogs not only salvaged their season, but established themselves as contenders in the NEC.

In doubles play, Parizale and Zach Morris were able to win, 8-4. Meanwhile, Max Vogt and Templeman were a great team also, winning their doubles match, 8-4, as well. The victories in doubles play gave the Bulldogs an early 1-0 lead. Parizale recorded his 20th singles victory of the season, winning in two straight sets. Freshman Oliver Welsh snapped a four game losing streak and picked up the singles victory from the No. 3 spot in the tournament.

Later on in the match, in No. 4 singles, Vogt was facing a deficit late in the match. The Bulldogs’ outcome and ending the losing streak was all on the line. However, the regaining NEC Rookie of the Year was able to mount a comeback, winning both of the next two sets, 6-3, to secure the 5-2 victory for the Bulldogs. The win gave Bryant much needed victory and got them back to their winning ways.

With the win, the Bulldogs are able to establish themselves as legitimate contenders in the NEC. Under the radar, the Bulldogs have had one of their best seasons. They just finished their worst stretch of the season, and, with this big win, are still set up to win the conference this year.

The Bulldogs’ next two matches will be big tests, as they will face Yale and Connecticut both on the road in consecutive weekends. In three weeks, they will host their conference rival, Farleigh Dickson, in what will be the first conference match of the season. The Bulldogs have gotten on the right track with the recent victory, but they will need to win these next couple of matches in order to show they are one of the best teams in the NEC.

Bulldogs lacrosse keeps dominating in NEC

With attention on other programs, the lacrosse team is quietly having a phenomenal season

By Gabrille King
Contributing Writer

With the undesired, disappointing outcome of Bryant’s men’s basketball team losing the Northeast Conference playoff game against Saint Francis several weeks ago, it can still be hard to turn the page on their season. However, channeling energy into another team is generating.

According to the Bryant Bulldogs’ athletic website, “the Bryant University men’s lacrosse team continues its move up the national polls and receives its highest ranking in Division 1 program history.” The team was ranked as number 15 in the country as they continue on with their 2014 season.

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Kevin Massa is one of the nation’s best players and has led the Bulldogs to a great season (MCT Campus)
Need some fun in your life? Check out the Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club

By Lauren Kordalski
Assistant Editor-and-Chief

We whitewater raft, rock climb, hike, snow tube, kayak, and we specialize in having fun. We’re the Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club and you should join us.

Two years ago, my roommate was rushing out of the room to go to a meeting. On her way out, she asked me if I wanted to come check out the Bryant Outdoor Adventure Club with her. Wanting to procrastinate on whatever assignment I was working on, I happily agreed to tag along. This specific meeting ended up focusing on BOAC’s biggest trip of the year, whitewater rafting. The trip seemed like an absolute blast, but the wild adventure of it all seemed a bit overwhelming. However, after giving it some thought, I decided to jot my name down just in case.

Flash forward to the present. In just a few short weeks, I’ll be attending my fourth whitewater rafting trip; my second as secretary of BOAC. I could never have guessed during this initial meeting how much BOAC would change my life. Yes it’s cliché, but it’s also very true.

The first rafting trip was genuinely one of the best experiences of my life. Even the ride up, to The Forks, Maine, our rafting destination, was a blast. Kicking off the trip, my suitemates and I cruised up north, winding through the mountains of New Hampshire and Maine with our windows down and smiles plastered on our face. Immediately upon our arrival, we received a warm welcome from Kim, our host for the weekend, and the awesome Bryant alum who runs Three Rivers Rafting Company. As our fellow BOACers later greeted us with open arms, we could tell immediately we were in for a good time.

From there, things only got better. We sat by the bonfire that night with our new friends and gazed in awe at the gorgeous night sky - I had never seen that many stars before. The next day, we fearlessly loaded onto our rafts and faced the Kennebec River together. While the boat rocked back and forth and water sprayed our faces, I looked around to find endless smiles, each person having more fun than the next. Once we had conquered the river, we returned dripping wet only to find our raft guides ready to serve us a home cooked meal. After making sure we were fed, the guides got their fill and took seats at our tables, reappearing later in the night as well to rock out with us to some karaoke. At this point, you may be wondering where I’m going with this detailed personal rafting story. Well I’ll tell you! Every single piece of my rafting experience made me appreciate BOAC and the spirit of adventure more and more.

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I was able to see gorgeous foliage both on our ride up and on the river, making me reevaluate how much I stop to appreciate my surroundings. I met fantastic BOAC members, many of whom are still great friends today. And I also met the friendly raft guides who introduced us to their laid back style of living, up in The Forks. The bond everyone, BOAC and raft guides together, formed during this trip and the trips following was truly a special one. We talked, ate, laughed, and rafted together, enjoying Maine as one big adventurous family.

After experiencing such a phenomenal trip, I genuinely credit my newfound spontaneous personality to BOAC and the past rafting trips. Each trip reaffirmed my new life philosophy - HAVE FUN! We can worry about arbitrary issues, stress about exams, and let fear hold us back, or we can forge ahead, leave inhibitions behind, and focus on keeping ourselves happy by making fun a top priority.

Starting with stepping out of my comfort zone during that first meeting, BOAC has taught me to embrace spontaneity, fun, and adventure. With my wild BOACers by my side, I’ve made it up a rock wall, down a snowy mountain, and through a raging river. They’ve cheered and screamed with me during each and every adventure, and they’re a huge part of why I’m giving up unnecessary stress and anxiety and replacing it with fun and spontaneity. If you’re looking for great friends, wild adventures, and a change of pace, look no further; BOAC would be more than happy to have you.

My fearless raft taking on the raging Kennebec River in The Forks, Maine last fall

By Lauren Kordalski
Assistant Editor-and-Chief

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March 26, 2014
With the first pick in the NFL Draft, the Houston Texans select…

By Pat Basil
Contribute Writer

There is still speculation where quarterback Johnny Manziel could end up in the draft (MCT/Campus)

The NFL Draft is a few weeks away, and there are more questions than answers for some teams.

1. Houston Texans – Teddy Bridgewater, QB, Louisville

After trading their embattled starter Matt Schaub to the Oakland Raiders over the weekend, the Texans are now in dire need a play caller and show their hand. Bridgewater would be the perfect man to fit into the quarterback position as he has the tools to be a star from the get go. They will need to see how Bridgewater performs in a one on one situation over the next few weeks. He will be facing elite pass rushers week in and week out. The Texans need to make sure that Bridgewater is the right man for the job.

2. St. Louis Rams – Jake Matthews, OT, Texas A&M

The Rams already have two great bookends in Robert Quinn and Chris Long. They will need someone to keep QB Sam Bradford upright when they last to a knee injury last year. Matthews is the best OL prospect this year and is a great athlete. He and Jake Long will anchor that front.

3. Jacksonville Jaguars – Jadaveon Clowney, DE, South Carolina

The Jaguars are so bad that frankly anything would help them. A freak athlete and almost unanimously held as the top prospect in this year’s draft, the Jaguars could be the team to acquire the league’s most feared pass rusher for over a decade. They also need to put fans in the stands. Adding a big name like Clowney could attract the people of Northeast Florida something to actually go to a game to see.

4. Cleveland Browns – Blake Bortles, QB, UCF

Blake Bortles had a consistent solid starting quarterback since Bernie Kosar in the late 1980’s may find his way in the prototype built gundisler, Bottles. They’ve been watching Ben Roethlisberger win division titles since he first arrived in Pittsburg. With Bortles already being a star and a man for any band it was time to pick him. If Bortles is the best available player in this draft he makes for a great armed threat of their own.

5. Oakland Raiders – Sammy Watkins, WR, Clemson

What? No Johnny Manziel? If there was ever a franchise built in heaven, this has to be it! This may be so, but the Raiders recently acquired Matt Schaub from the Texans. With the addition of Terrelle Pryor on the roster, both of whom have multiple starts and wins under their belts. The Raiders will have another flashy athlete. Watkins was a star in college for years now. He’ll have a solid running game and a lights out defense to back him up.

6. Atlanta Falcons – Taylor Lewan, OT, Michigan

The Falcons’ offensive was absolutely terrible last year, which was one of the main reasons the defense had such a hard fall from grace. They are still in need of an outside pass rusher, but they did just add two massive build defensive linemen in Tyson Jackson and Paul Soliai in free agency.

7. Tampa Bay Buccaneers – Khalil Mack, LB, Buffalo

They do need help on the offensive line but Lovsie Micke will simply refuse to pass on such a dynamic and explosive defender and pass rusher. Mike Glennon was solid as a rookie last year and they’ve recently added journeyman Josh McCown who was great in Chicago last year filling in for Jay Cutler.

8. Minnesota Vikings – Johnny Manziel, QB, Texas A&M

The Christian Ponder experiment is over. Minnesota will be a great fit for Manziel with the best running back in the league behind him and the bright lights and distractions of a big city far away. He will be able to develop and mature into a fine passer up north.

9. Buffalo Bills – Mike Evans, WR, Texas A&M

The Bills offensive line last year wasn’t one to write home about and neither was their linebacking corps, but they’ve addressed both in free agency. E.J., Manuel was very “eh” last year, but they seem to have great faith in his ability after cutting veteran QB Kevin Kolb. They need to add weapons for the younger QB. Evans along with Stevie Woods and Robert Woods would wonder, Manual.

10. Detroit Lions – Justin Gilbert, CB, Okaloosa State

They’ve added WR Golden Tate to an already electric but inconsistent offense. They need help at corner back and Gilbert is the best available this year.

11. Tennessee Titans – Anthony Barr, LB, UCLA

Questions at running back and quarterback won’t be addressed with the top 3 QB’s gone and no big time back available this year. Barr is an electric defender who will bolster a lackluster linebacking corps.


Starting LT Will Beatty broke his leg in the season finale but had been struggling all year anyway. They do need a weapon on offense after losing WR Hakeem Nicks and running back to stand up. Robinson is a top ten talent. Move Beatty to RT and leave Justin Pugh inside at guard and Blue will have a great OL for years.

13. St. Louis Rams – Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, S, Alabama

With their second top-15 pick the Rams will fill another need with another top rated position player in Clinton-Dix. A rare mix of bull hawk and hard hitter could be the next big name at Safety and will thrive with a fearless pass rush up front.

14. Chicago Bears – Timmy Jernigan, DT, Florida State

The Bears could go a number a ways with this pick. TE Eric Ebron is still on the board if they choose to bolster their offensive arsenal but with no real presence in the defensive middle, Jernigan could add some disruption after a standout for the national champs.

15. Pittsburgh Steelers – O'dell Beckham, WR, LSU

They have an aging secondary that needs an overhaul but they also have no real receivers to speak of. Heath Miller’s presence will allow Ebron to drop again and make way for Beckham, the strong, physical wideout from LSU who’s been making noise since the combine.

16. Dallas Cowboys – Aaron Donald, DT, Pitt

Donald put on a clinic at the combine this year. He ran a blazing 4.68 40 yard dash and put up 35 reps on the bench. Athletic and explosive, he could be this year’s Dontari Poe. Fills a need and has great potential.

17. Baltimore Ravens – Calvin Pryor, S, Louisville

They desperately need another safety opposite Matt Elam who had a solid rookie year. Newly acquired WR Steve Smith adds another weapon for Joe Flacco and will allow the Ravens to fill a void left by Ed Reed.


Offensive Coordinator Marty Mornhinweg will throw New York’s best party once he sees Ebron holding that green and white jersey. He’s extremely athletic and versatile and fits perfectly into the Jets’ west coast system. Whoever the Jets’ QO turns out to be, they’ll have a walking mismatch at their disposal.

19. Miami Dolphins – Zach Martin, OT, Notre Dame

They signed free agent OT Brandon Albert to replace the troubled Jonathan Martin, but they’ve lost two starters to that bullying scandal. With no first round running backs in this draft, the Dolphins will patch up their makeshift offensive line from a year ago.

20. Arizona Cardinals – Dee Ford, DE, Auburn

This is an interesting pick. The Cardinals only real need left is at safety. Tyrann Mathieu had a breakout year after missing his senior year at LSU, but he tore an ACL and they don’t really have anyone next to him. They take a great pass rusher in Ford with no other first round caliber safeties available.


As long as Aaron Rodgers is in town, the Green and Yellow will always win games and have a great offense. That being said, they might as well upgrade their defense because not only is their physical, hard-nosed, and has great instincts. He’s exactly what a Green Bay LB is supposed to be.


They’re reportedly shopping around WR DeSean Jackson so they could look to replace with most of the team’s ten players. WR’s still on the board, but they really have a need at corner. They were in the latter half of the first round and pass defense and adding the physical Dennard from the nation’s top college defense will also help in the run game.

23. Kansas City Chiefs – Marque Lee, WR, USC

They need someone opposite Dwayne Bowe and they have a great selection in front of them. It’s either Lee or Brandon Cook from Oregon State. Bowe will make either one look good.

24. Cincinnati Bengals – Louis Nix, DT, Notre Dame

They’re probably looking for but still effective secondary, but the DL has some questions. Domata Peko took a step back last year and stomach issues can happen with an ACL. You can never be too deep up front, you need to be able to stop the run in the NFL.


They’re going to take their franchise QB in the top 3 and he’s going to need weapons on offense, Josh Gordon can’t do it alone. The two would make any young quarterback sleep at night.

26. Cleveland Browns – Brandin Cook, WR, Oregon State

They’re going to take their franchise QB in the top 3 and he’s going to need weapons on offense, Josh Gordon can’t do it alone. The two would make any young quarterback sleep at night.

27. New Orleans Saints – Braddy Roby, CB, Ohio State

QCauliflower Wilson and Jarvis Byrd behind him will allow Roby to return to his 2012 form after a slightly disappointing year. His combination could give the Saints the defense that the offense deserves.

28. Carolina Panthers – Allen Robinson, WR, Penn State

They lost long time LT Jordan Gross to free agency and will fill the void with another great pass rusher. With no solid tackles left in the first round, the Panthers will look to replace Smith.


They need help with their interior offensive line and Salu-Filo is very similar to manhattan Logan Mankins. They would be two peas in a pod. They could also look to trade down and take a TE in the early 2nd round.

30. San Francisco 49ers – Ryan Shazier, LB, Penn State

Their roster is already stacked and they have 3 picks in the first 3 rounds. They just go shopping and take the best available, it really doesn't matter.

31. Denver Broncos – Marcus Mosby, WR, Florida

Big benched replacement will Golden Tate. If Mosby falls, they’ll love to replace RT Breno Giacomini whom they lost to free agency.

Sports

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

The NFL Draft is a few weeks away, and there are more questions than answers for some teams.
WHERE DID YOU GO FOR SPRING BREAK?

ERIC NORMAN
JUNIOR
NORTH PROVIDENCE
(FOR CHARITY WORK)

ARIANA NIEVES
SOPHOMORE
WASHINGTON, DC

AUSTIN KELSON
FRESHMAN
"GEORGIA"

KEVIN NAJN
JUNIOR
HOME (MASSACHUSETTS)

MELISSA KATZ
FRESHMAN
HOME (CONNECTICUT)

JENNA HUSTED
JUNIOR
HOME (MASSACHUSETTS)
Making dreams come true vs. dreams working

By Nicholas Calabro

March 26, 2014

The animation industry has a deep-seated problem. As you have probably guessed, the debate is between Walt Disney Animation Studios and Dreamworks SKG Animation Studios. The competition between these giants began with the birth of Dreamworks at the mid-90s with Jeffery Katzen-berg leaving Disney to set it up with two others. As somebody who considers himself a fan of both, I think it is time for me to put my two cents in.

Dreamworks had a somewhat controversial start, with "Antz" (did they steal the idea from Pixar's "A Bug's Life"?), but next would come one of my favorites, "The Prince of Egypt." It is their adaptation of the story of Moses. The reason I love this one is, not only the context of the story, but how it is told by focusing on how Moses and Ramses II were broth-ers, assisted by great voice acting all around. I think this is made even better when you realize that it would be so easy for Dream-works to make them completely antagonistic towards each other.

But in 2001, they made something that would change the really love each other.

And then in 2007, they released "Shrek the Third." This was not one of the worst movies I had ever seen, but I do consider it a low point for Dreamworks. Recall that I said, what made the first two Shrek movies work was the relationship between Shrek and Princess Fiona, so the point where they decided to split them up was where things start to go downhill. That is, in the sense that as Shrek is talking to Donkey and Puss in Boots about becoming a father, I was thinking that those conversations would mean so much more if they were between Shrek and Princess Fiona.

This was also bogged down by a feeling that it was unnecessary, since everything seemed resolved after the second one. Fortunately, Dreamworks would redeem themselves.

Jumping ahead several years, we have "Rise of the Guardians." This movie truly got me. Personally, this was because, it treated iconic characters with more respect than I thought they would have. I would also say that it has a wonderfully positive message, not just to children but possibly for adults who face their own personal goobeyman, about

"One difference between Disney and Dream-works, is that Dreamworks proved they could get to me emotionally."

what would change the

animation field, probably forever, "Shrek." This one is most famous for satirizing Disney through Princess Fiona, and cameoed from other fairy tale characters. What I enjoy most about this movie is that unlike some parodies, "Shrek" focuses on one item of satire (Princess Fiona), which allowed them to create a better relationship between her and Shrek himself.

After that, "Shrek 2" is arguably better, as it shows the progression of this relationship, while continuing the Disney sati-rizing (Prince Charming and the Fairy Godmother). I find that the problems that they go through make their relationship stronger, when they realize how much they

The Disney Renaissance would be so named because Disney was feeling like the Disney of old. In fact, some new works would be better than the Disney of the past. It is because here they were made to connect with people in the real world. The best example is in the cat-egory of romances. In the early Disney films it was always love at first sight, and while that is nice to believe, the Disney Renaissance actually resonates more with a more realistic portrayal. For example, isn't the love much more powerful between Belle and the Beast, than between Snow White and the Prince? I say yes, because in the former, they start off really hating each other. In fact, I feel like "Shrek" owes quite a bit to "Beauty and the Beast."

The other Disney Renaissance films would follow suit, in terms of having their characters actually get to know each other before falling in love. Admittedly, none would be as strong as "Beauty and the Beast" but they all have their own strengths. Even though the romance is more of a subplot in "Aladdin," for example, rather than a physical barrier. Alad-in and Princess Jasmine need to overcome one that is more economic. And due to their own personalities they develop a genuine connection. This would continue until the start of the new millennium, when the Disney Renaissance came to an end.

Like in the post Disney's death era, what I call the post Renais-sance dark age, would have mov-ies where I felt like some of the magic had disappeared (these are the type of movies where "Rise of the Guardians," got the Disney charm). I enjoyed "The Emperor's New Groove," but this would also be the era where they would release what I believe is their worst movie, "Home on the Range."

I remember the stereotype of Disney being just for kids, let's just say that this is the type of movie that causes people to say that, because it is obviously happy. Again, I think it goes back to the villain, like I said about "the Aristocats." This was so poorly received that it would kill the art of 2D animation. But

something else was coming, and I think it brought back what Dis-ney was feeling like the Disney of old.

This was what some have called the second Disney Renais-sance, as it seems to be another great era of Disney films. Like the first one, this Renaissance would draw its strength from movies that portrayed something realistically. The first 2D animated film in five years, "The Princess and the Frog" was about the first African-American Disney Princess wanting to have her own restaurant. But it shows there is more than just believing in it, she had to work hard for it, and at points it did not look like it would work out. There is something that Walt Disney said, particularly relevant to this movie "dreams can come true, when we have the courage to pursue them."

And now it is time to make the decision.

I said that "Rise of the Guard-ians" would capture the Disney charm better than some Disney films, and I truly believe that, even better than Dreamworks. In fact, I hope Dreamworks makes more mov-ies like this one, because I am the type of person who judges movies based on how I feel after seeing them. Having said that, I feel like one difference between Disney and Dreamworks, is that Dreamworks proved they could get to me emotionally, but in this second Renaissance I find Disney proved they still had it in them.

Yes, Disney has more bad movies than Dreamworks, but Disney is also the older studio, and it is easier to find more bad movies in a larger collection. Ultimately, the ideal animation collection would consist of mov-ies from Dreamworks, which avoid having to choose a side exclusively, then based on how I feel afterwards, I would suggest having more Dis-ney films than Dreamworks films.

If you are like me, that means you would find more entertain-ment in the studio that perfected the methods of emotional charm. However, if you are like me, that also means you would want to avoid the likes of "the Aristocats," and "Home on the Range," among most, but not all, others from their time, like different versions of the "Ring of Fire" ride.
Take the chance, make the leap

By Ashley Smith

Staff Writer

Do you have a friend that you've ever come to you for advice, stating things like "She said she didn't like me, but he still flirts with me, so what should I do to get her?" or "Well, I know he's been with other girls, I've just call me back last weekend, what should I do?" or even "He treats me well when we're around him, but he's hardly around. What does that mean?"

You may then try to encourage them to pursue their love interests, whether or not you believe that they will actually end up together. Or maybe it's just another one of those occasions that are actually seeking this kind of advice.

Well, it has to stop.

If you were to approach anyone and ask them if they'd want to be with someone that was less than ecstatic to be with them, I'm sure they would say no. It just isn't something we talk about, and it is your responsibility to realize this.

Why spend sleepless hours messaging someone on how to get this person to be interested again or how to end up with them when you already desire to be with someone that is effortlessly in love and excited to be with you?

First and foremost, why would you ever be excited to be with someone who is not excited to be with you? If they're not truly happy with you now, what makes you think they will be in the future, especially long-term? Why should you jump up hoops to convince someone to date you when they aren't trying to convince you? Why on earth would you ever believe that you could ever be happy with someone to be with you?

That's the thing, you don't need a firm belief in self respect that you have and convince yourself of that. Do not waste any more hours worrying about someone who doesn't wonder about you. This time is best used to focus on yourself, turn yourself into your best self, and do things that turn yourself into your best self, and do things that turn yourself into your best self, and do things that turn yourself into your best self...

Entrepreneur Derek Siver wrote a blog post in the past stating, "If I'm not 'saying 'Hell Yeah' to something, then I say 'No'." This rule of thumb served well in the business world, and it can be applied to the dating world as well. The rule of "Hell yes or no" states that when you want to get involved with someone, you should never wake up not knowing if you are in any type of relationship, they must inspire you to say "hell yes" in order for you to proceed. However, the rule also applies in a way that if you want to get involved with someone, you must inspire them to say "hell yes" as well. Both parties must be enthusiastic about the idea of the other person's company.

I believe the entire social media campaigns and the idea that "Hell yes or no" states that when you want to get involved with someone they must inspire you to say "hell yes" in order for you to proceed. However, the rule also applies in a way that if you want to get involved with someone, you must inspire them to say "hell yes" as well. Both parties must be enthusiastic about the idea of the other person's company.

The real world, real people

By Zach DiFranza

Contributing Writer

Nothing makes my grizzled heart harder than Americans’ desire for peer confirmation of their attractiveness. People these days are too caught up in others’ opinions of them. I have always been a firm believer in the power of self-confidence, and for the most part, disregarded the critiques of others.

However, new social apps such as Tinder, Hot or Not, and Instagram have gained approval for their friends-...and random strangers. Tinder, quite literally, shows you profile to other users in your area and alerts you if a user you like "likes" you too. A common user of the dating app. Instagram is a social networking site that demonstrates the extent of relationships. The first edition of the Global Slavery Index was released in 2013 based off research done by Kevin Bales for the organization Free the Slaves. Bales notes, "We wanted to create the first of its kind, this index is based on the measurement of people living in modern slavery today. Country by Country, the estimates are reliable but heart-breaking. One of the biggest assumptions this organization provides an interactive map that demonstrates of the extent to which slavery extends with quan-...ative and qualitative research. By clicking on a dark red country, one can see that slavery is prominent not only by habit, but by that country's level of human and economic development; the stability of the government and the institutions of the country; the level of discrimination against women, anti-slavery policies; and the country's respect for human rights. Ranking number one with the highest percent-...age of people enslaved is a Sub-Saharan African country, Mauritania. This country is estimated to have roughly 150,000 enslaved with a total popula-...tion of about 3.8 million. Haiti is ranked second with 210,000 enslaved, followed by Uzbekistan in third place. In the past, human slaves were documented for the slave holders to trade and claim ownership. With the world's recent advancements, people have become cheap and disposable, says researcher Kevin Bales. In 1850, purchasing a slave cost what today would be around $800. In 2011, humans were being bought and sold for roughly $90. With these factors, slavery documentation is non-existent and not needed for slave holders. However, being free skin color makes the slave industry profit now far more important. For those of you who are, like me, completely ignorant about this major issue and still questioning its authenticity, Free the Slaves and the University of California Berkeley conducted research proving cases of slavery and human trafficking in over 90 cities across the U.S. was harvested 1972. On their website, this organization aims to reveal or the one outraged and ready to help. However, I think it is not enough. I can’t be the only one shocked by this revelation or the one outraged and ready to help. Simply spreading the word and knowing the signs can make a difference.

By Mallory Wilczynski

Contributing Writer

There are an estimated 29.8 million people who are enslaved today. Roughly 60,000 of those people are enslaved in the United States. Twenty-nine point eight million people. A couple of weeks ago, 12 years a Slave took home a well-deserved Oscar for Best Picture. In his acceptance speech, director Steve McQueen provided an insight on what drove him to turn Solomon Northup’s story into an Academy Award-winning film. “Everyone deserves not just to survive, but to live,” he said “I dedicate this award to the all the people who have been enslaved and the 21 million that still suffer today.”

Maybe I am just nineteen and naïve, but when I heard Steve McQueen’s speech I thought it was purely exaggerated. In a world as great, advanced, and ruled as we are, is there no possible way that there are more people enslaved today than at any other time in human history. Confused, I did some research.

After taking into account information from several sources, I know that Steve McQueen was not lying. In fact, his numbers were lower than the official Global Slavery Index. The first edition of the Global Slavery Index was released in 2013 based off research done by Kevin Bales for the organization Free the Slaves. Bales notes, "We wanted to create the first of its kind, this index is based on the measurement of people living in modern slavery today. Country by Country, the estimates are reliable but heart-breaking. One of the biggest assumptions this organization provides an interactive map that demonstrates of the extent to which slavery extends with quan...ative and qualitative research. By clicking on a dark red country, one can see that slavery is prominent not only by habit, but by that country's level of human and economic development; the stability of the government and the institutions of the country; the level of discrimination against women, anti-slavery policies; and the country's respect for human rights. Ranking number one with the highest percent-age of people enslaved is a Sub-Saharan African country, Mauritania. This country is estimated to...
Are your Facebook friends actually your friends?

By Kelsey Gainor
Contribution Writer

Social media websites and technology have changed the way that we form and maintain relationships. Everything from a person’s name to his or her birthday is easily accessible by the click of a button. Many times we have never even talked to the people that we call our “friends” and followers.” And by this, I mean physically, in real-life, tangibly talked to them. This fact can be both a blessing and a curse, but regardless, it is completely redefining how we interact with other Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and social media users.

We have all been there: you look down at your phone to see a notification for a friend or follower request. As you open it, you might begin to explore his or her profile. Do you know the person? – No. Do you recognize their name? – Maybe. “Sure, I’ll accept them,” you think to yourself. With a click of a button, you have just made an instant connection electronically – something that was unheard of in our parent’s day. But I would argue that this electronic connection is much less meaningful than a connection made in person.

Don’t get me wrong. I am not a “Social Media Hater.” Facebook has especially allowed me to connect with lots of people, from friends I had in middle school to future friends I would make at Bryant. These sites have made our world smaller by making it more accessible. We can now Facebook chat with someone from England, favorite a tweet from Bryant Dining, like a photo on Instagram from a friend back home; however, social media can sometimes make things plain uncomfortable.

For example, you decide to accept a friend request because you see that the person also goes to Bryant. A second later they instant message you with the most common, creative conversation starter of our generation... “Hey! You decide to write back, and before you know it, you have exchanged phone numbers and are texting one another. So what’s wrong with this, right?

Something that I have realized, is that people tend to be different over electronics than they are in person. We tend to become more confident and take advantage of the fact that our flaws are not openly exposed. We become the very ideal selves that we display through our social media profiles. So what happens when we have to physically see talk to them in person? “gasp”

In many of my experiences, things just feel awkward. First, you see the person (or at least you think it’s them based off pictures on social media), but do they recognize you? After giving a small smile and typical “Hey,” you go off your separate ways. Then, you text one another later about the encounter. Maybe eventually you will be able to have a real conversation in person, but for me, these conversations feel forced since the basis of the relationship rests on an impersonal piece of technology.

As I said before, I am not a social media or technology hater. Sometimes I just wish that we could go back to the “good old days” when relationships and communication were more straightforward. It would make a lot of things easier, and conversations and relationship would have more meaning and less uncertainty. So get out there and strike up a conversation with someone in person. Who knows what kind of connection you will make?

What color fits your aura?

By Molly Funk
Staff Writer

Red
You are one who works well with friction—almost to a fault as you constantly invite it into your life. You may be working and playing too hard, causing your energy to constantly burn out. You attract and/or repel money, it depends on the situation. You are obsessive, and sometimes the object of other’s obsessions. Others enjoy when you turn your restlessness into motivation and confidence.

Yellow
You recently had a positive change in your life and your life has taken an interesting twist. Everything that surrounds you, inspires you. Everything you learn, see, and experience is fascinating and worth investigating further. Every day you learn something new, and all of this knowledge. Don’t forget to far too into these changes. Embrace them instead!

Blue
You are notoriously cool, calm, collected, and in control. You tend not to make mistakes; instead, you act as a strong force working below the surface. You want all those around you to be happy and often convince them to get along by expressing the truth in a loving fashion. All your friends look to you for comfort; you have soothing advice.

Green
You are comfortable and at ease; physically and emotionally you are feeling good. You are growing but remaining balanced simultaneously, a feat not many experience. You have deep affection for every dog, cat, baby, or flower you encounter. You don’t mind offering feedback when you deem it necessary as you consider all citizens of the world worthwhile.

Purple
You believe in magic, and why wouldn’t you! All those odd, wonderful, lucky things that have been occurring in your life are prime examples of magic. You use this magic for good, as you recognize the positive effects those actions will have on your future. You could rule the world if you wanted to, but you choose to make smaller, more personal influences on those around you.

Bryant Said What?!

“Does she look good sober?”

“Basking in the sun this afternoon #meow”

“Get in the shower if all goes wrong.”

“And by quiet yourself I mean shut the f* up before I take your Ipad and beat you over the head with it.”

“But when you have Barefoot Moscato, do you even need love?”

Profit and Loss

Congrats to the Men’s Tennis team for their victory this past Saturday!

Congrats to the six finalists who presented during Monday night’s Public Speaking Colloquium

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By Brendan Barstow  
Staff Writer

Australia has been on an absolute roll lately of pumping out fantastic musical artists. New Zealand has given us the likes of The Naked and Famous, Flight of the Conchords, and Six60 on the alternative scene as well as electronic producers like Mt Eden. Australia’s immense musical exports seem disproportionate to its global presence, exhibited through bands including the Temper Trap, Tame Impala, Pond, and Wolfmother. In 2012 and 2013 the Sydney-based electronic producer and DJ, Flume, set the Australian scene and then the global electronic scene on fire with his completely unique blend of melodic hip-hop and bass.

Born in 1991, Harley Edward Streten found his first major success in 2011 with the tracks “Sleepless”, “Over You”, and “Paper Thin”, which he used to win an original music competition hosted by the Australian record label Future Classic. The competition victory got him signed to the label and ignited his career. In November of 2012 Flume went on to release a self-titled debut album to extraordinary critical acclaim. The album won double platinum awards from the Australian Recording Industry Association and topped the charts in both Australia and New Zealand. Following the album, he toured Australasia and the U.S. to sold-out crowds.

Towards the end of 2013, Flume’s side project – an ongoing collaboration with Australia’s Emoh Instead, was boosted to the forefront of the electronic scene with the release of their single “Touched” – a genre-busting jam that mashed up dancefloor sound systems and library headphones alike. Emoh Instead was rocketed into the spotlight through this first major single and others following it, including “Jigsaux” and “Tell Me”, the latter a massive trap collaboration with major producer RL Grime that saw his biggest and quickest Soundcloud listeners and shares to date.

My musically-inclined friends and I have religiously followed Flume’s production from his humble beginnings and absolutely adore his smooth, unique sound. Being massive fans of trap and other dancefloor-heavy sounds, and absolutely adore his smooth, unique sound. Being massive fans of trap and other dancefloor-heavy sounds, and absolutely adore his smooth, unique sound. Being massive fans of trap and other dancefloor-heavy sounds, and absolutely adore his smooth, unique sound.

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My musically-inclined friends and I have religiously followed Flume’s production from his humble beginnings and absolutely adore his smooth, unique sound. Being massive fans of trap and other dancefloor-heavy sounds, we instantly fell in love with What So Not’s blend of Flume’s headnotic melodies and Emoh’s heavy drops. When we found out that What So Not was coming to Boston and opening for GTA, we automatically picked up the $25 tickets and climbed aboard the hype train for What So Not’s entrance. That excitement was quickly converted to fear and disappointment when we saw Emoh’s amateur mix to at least enjoy the WSN tracks we hold his own mixing in WSN tracks amongst a solid mix, we dosed our disappointment in $5 Bud Lights and planned to make the best of it. That task soon proved impossible as Emoh dropped back-to-back abominations of the genres he claims to represent, interrupted and punctuated only by awkward, silent breaks in the music whose sole purpose was to provide the audience with an opportunity to consider leaving. We suffered through Emoh’s amateur mix to at least enjoy the WSN tracks we did recognize, but the joy of hearing them was deadened by the poor transitions leading into and out of them.

Once his set was finally over, we re-upped on some overpriced brews and tried to erase from our memories the worst in the history of established electronic music. We left twenty minutes into GTA’s set and vowed never to see What So Not or GTA ever again. After a bit of research, I learned that Flume never actually tours with What So Not, indicating that the collaboration is really a mechanism to give Emoh the opportunity to piggyback on the success of an artist who actually deserves his ticket sales. My respect for both members of the ‘collaboration’ is a abysmally low after the show, but fortunately for Flume his incredibly skillful production shines without reputation or ethics.
The secret life of the modern man

By Brendan Barstow
Staff Writer

Art is a reflection of cultural consciousness. In Paleolithic times, cave paintings produced by early humans depicted scenes of hunting, and of the various animals that were encountered on a regular basis. Some were expressions of fear and others of reverence - the bull and the horse both received immortality on a rock wall. In ancient Egypt, we see the cat frequently depicted in art as a product of its significance as a cultural icon and sacred animal. Then 10,000 years later, around the birth of Christ, we see Jesus and his antics portrayed as a dominant theme in the paintings of that era, a reflection of the tremendous impact he had on the early Christian world and its population. The development of a European obsession with antiquity defined the Renaissance age, particularly with an emphasis on religious icons, and so Renaissance artists focused their creations to represent the lives of saints and prophets, quintessentially exemplified by Michelangelo's sculpture of David. In the last century, the development of film has provided a new medium within which to express the issues, fears, and ambitions of a generation of humans.

James Thurber first wrote The Secret Life of Walter Mitty as a short story in 1939, six months prior to the start of the deadliest conflict in human history. The 2,079-word story provides a glimpse into one day in the life of Walter Mitty, a forgetful sad sack, as he takes his wife into town for a haircut. The story begins with an eye-patched Mitty at the helm of a navy hydroplane, fearlessly piloting the vessel over the Arctic seas. "The old man'll get us through," his crew says, "The Old Man ain't afraid of Hell!" Mitty's wife joins him back to his Waterbury, Connecticut reality, scolding him for his excessive 55mph speed (she prefers a maximum of 40). Walter can't seem to do anything the way he should: he drives too quickly for his wife, too slowly for a cop, and in the wrong lane for the parking attendant. He won't wear his gloves and he forgets himself entirely - no one respects him, and so the desire to find himself is found within his daydreams. Although the contexts of Mitty's mental adventures are varied - captain, surgeon, defendant, pilot, soldier, the reasons for his escapism run through each one of his fantasies. Each character he created is confident, cared for, sexy, sassy - they are quantitatively superior because his true personality finds wanting. The real Walter Mitty lives in an unsatisfying and uninteresting marriage, he isn't trusted or respected by his own wife; let alone the strangers he meets. These feelings of frustration and inadequacy precipitate a final fantasy in which Mitty stands up inscrutably to a firing squad to face his imagined death. Rummings of war in Europe and the tail-end of the Great Depression are reflected in the incredible darkness of the story, a clear product of the time and cultural mood in which it was written.

Ben Stiller's screenplay adaptation tells a vastly different, wholly modern story. The modern Walter Mitty works a 9-5, wearing a short-sleeved dress shirt in the darkroom basement of LIFE magazine. He is socially disconnected, beginning the film by turning to eHarmony to initiate a conversation with a coworker he sees on a daily basis. He is absent-minded to an extreme, constantly escaping from the present moment in grandiose fantasies of confidence, cunning, boldness, and heroism. This is the only real connection to the original Walter Mitty - a penchant for dealing with their personal shortcomings by vividly imagining their ideal self. He's a bit of a dreamer who has devoted his life to his company, only to be fired in a merger as the magazine puts out its final issue before going online-only. After losing the photo destined for LIFE's last cover from the world's premier photographer, Mitty has to go on a world adventure to recover the picture and reclaim his life. Walter is an absolute representation of the modern American man. In a world devoid of mystery and danger that craves authentic experience, Mitty has the adventure we all wish we could. In Greenland, he hitchhikes a helicopter ride from a drunk pilot to a ship in tremendously tumultuous seas. On the ship he travels to Iceland, where he trades an action figure for a longboard, crudely fashions gloves out of rocks and clothes, and skates through the beautiful Icelandic countryside to an active volcano. The volcano erupts and Mitty is picked up by a compassionate Icelandic man who barely outruns the deadly ash cloud following them. This theme of authentic adventure pervades the second half of the film, and miraculously brings Walter to become the ideal self of his fantasies. The fantasies subside, he finds the picture, and comes home to finally be with the love of his life.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty is so easily relatable because his experience represents an extreme representation of our own. We are disconnected from the present moment and from each other by ubiquitous technology, and by the social media platforms that pretend to facilitate connection. In an unprecedented era of all-inclusive resorts and Caribbean cruises packed with obnoxious white families his experience is profoundly raw - he's forging real connections with real people in exotic cultures. One moment he's hiking the Himalayas and watching snow leopards, the next he's joining a soccer game with a group of local kids in a Tibetan village. He goes from living a life without soul to one overflowing with love and friendship. Just as the original short story was symptomatic of 1939 American feeling, the 2013 adaptation speaks to the contemporary cultural consciousness, and the fantasies of escapism we continue to entertain 75 years later.

Final reflections: my time on SIE in China

By Alexia Bayer
Contributing Writer

As I sit here writing my journal with new friends, I must admit I am sad to see this trip end. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with my fellow students, our tour guides and the Bryant faculty. I have always believed that the best way to understand a culture is to experience it firsthand.

I do not think it is possible to fully understand a place until you have physically visited, and this trip has helped me to better understand China. I will never again make a generalization about China. I have witnessed the diversity and cultural differences with my own eyes. I have learned so much throughout the course of our travels and am blessed to have visited places I never thought I would have had the opportunity to see. I did not expect to enjoy my time in China so much and I can honestly say that I cannot wait to come back again. This trip has provided us with a comprehensive look at China and many aspects of this diverse country. Each of the cities we visited has a very different and unique culture and lifestyle that I am lucky to have experienced. Beijing was an interesting mix of the old and the new. Skyscrapers surrounded classic sites such as the Forbidden City, depicting the merging of classic Chinese history and modern development. Climbing the Great Wall was one of the highlights of the trip for me and something that I will never forget. Yangshuo offered a more adventurous and rural atmosphere with the uniquely rounded mountains that provided us with many entertaining activities. This was definitely my favorite place as I had never seen landscapes that even remotely resembled Yangshuo and I had a blast mountain biking and caving.

Though we did not have much time in Dalian, it had another unique culture and environment, and I loved visiting our sister university and interacting with the students there. When we arrived in Hong Kong, it was hard to believe we were still in Asia. Most of the signs were in English and the style of the buildings and stores were similar to New York. I truly enjoyed experiencing the variety of regions and cities in China, and I don't think I would have had such an amazing experience had I not visited all of them.

Overall, this trip has allowed me to observe many things about China. First, it is such a diverse country that is impossible to generalize. To my surprise, many areas of China are more modern than most people think and at times appear to be very western. I learned from the school visits that there are also many differences between the education system in the United States and China. I feel that both have strengths and have a lot to learn from one another. Additionally, from what I have seen, there is a greater sense of community and consideration in China than in the United States.

My personal experience was that the people are much nicer and the cities are cleaner with fewer homeless people than, say, New York. Although China is currently in a transition phase, I have witnessed the potential China has to become even more successful. I hope that China continues to progress and that their rich culture and history can be better understood by foreigners. China has changed my perspective, and for that I am truly grateful. I know that I am lucky to have visited this beautiful country and I hope others will do the same.
Imagine living in a world where you are assigned one rule to live by, a job to excel at, and a place to reside. In *Divergent*, there are five factions in which a person can be placed. Abnegation, which values selflessness, Amity, which values caretaking, Candor, which values trustworthiness, Dauntless, which values protection, and Erudite, which values intelligence.

When children reach the age of sixteen, they each take an aptitude test which tells them which faction they belong in. Regardless of what the test says, however, each child can choose whichever faction they see themselves in. While most children choose the same faction as their parents, the ones they were raised in, a select few choose a different faction. Once the choice has been made, there is no going back. Families cannot take back their children if they change their minds. Faction before blood is what is valued. Once a faction is chosen, the children become initiates and must go through training. Training is different for each faction, and the tests are centered on the faction’s values. At the end of the testing period, if the initiates do not make it through training successfully, they become what is known as factionless. They are without a job, without a home, and must rely on the abnegation to help them. Beatrice and Caleb Prior are sixteen years old from Abnegation, the selfless. On the day of the aptitude tests, Beatrice receives inconclusive results. Usually the test rules out four of the factions, leaving you with the one you are meant to be in, but Beatrice’s test only rules out two. She is Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite. This combination of results is extremely rare, and the people who get these results are called Divergent. This is a dangerous thing to be, but Beatrice is not told why, only told to never tell anyone her results.

The day of the choosing ceremony goes very swiftly, most children choosing the factions which they came from. When it gets to Caleb, he walks to the center of the stage where the five bowls are placed, one for each faction. He must take the knife provided and cut his hand, placing a drop of his blood in the bowl of his choosing. Beatrice always thought he was the perfect example of an Abnegation, putting others before himself, so when he chooses Erudite, it comes as a shock. He has betrayed their family, and now she is unsure of what choice she wants to make. As she walks to the stage for her turn, she decides that she cannot leave her mother and father also, and will choose Abnegation. But when her blood is about to drip into the bowl, she suddenly shifts her hand, and chooses Dauntless.

With no time to spare, the Dauntless take off after the ceremony, and Beatrice must run to keep up with them. The Dauntless are known to be daredevils, and she has no idea what she is in for. When she sees that they are jumping onto moving trains, she does not know how she will be able to do it. She just barely makes it on, panting from being out of breath, and with hardly any time to recover, she now must jump off the train onto a building, with a huge gap in between. She does not think, she just jumps, crashing hard onto the roof. This is only the beginning of what she will have to endure being in Dauntless. Training consists of fighting other initiates, learning to shoot guns, going through fear landscapes in which they must use their mental abilities to get through each challenge, and competing with the initiates to get a top spot in order to become a member.

The days pass quickly, and Beatrice is pushed to her limits. At the end of training, she ends up getting the number one spot. She befriends some of the other initiates, and even her trainer, Four. The two become close and they learn that they are both Divergent. Shortly after she becomes a member, however, war breaks out. She and Four are at both an advantage and disadvantage being Divergent, and must use all of their skills to help save the factions. Together they conquer many challenges, and through it all become closer than ever.

Divergent was extremely well written, and author Veronica Roth creates a world unlike any other. Her imagination runs wild and in turn created a bestseller. The book is part of a trilogy, and is also now a major motion picture. This book will keep you engrossed and you will soon be hunting the bookshelves for the next one.

‘A memorable, unpredictable journey from which it is nearly impossible to turn away.’ - Publishers Weekly