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The Equinox

Covering the days and knights...

at FDU's Metropolitan Campus

October 22, 2015



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Leon Panetta Dishes on Government

By Elizabeth White

(TEANECK) - Leon Panetta spoke at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark on Oct. 9 on his experiences as the Director of the CIA and time in the White House.

Panetta first served in the United States House of Representatives for 16 years until 1993, and in 1994 was appointed White House Chief of Staff by President Clinton. From 2009 to 2011, Panetta directed the Central Intelligence Agency. He then served as Secretary of Defense from 2011 to 2013. Panetta's was raised on his family's walnut farm. He and his brother helped collect the walnuts as his father shook them from the trees. When Panetta was elected to Congress, his father said he would be well trained because he's been dodging nuts all his life.

Panetta said, "My parents also taught me something else: that dreams are just dreams unless you're willing to work for it. Unless you're willing to sacrifice, to take risks, to keep fighting, and never stop fighting until you make those dreams come true."

Panetta continued about the future leadership of America. The values that are ingrained into us are the same ones that he grew up with, including hard work, taking risks and sacrifice, are what make America the best country on Earth. He said, "Whether we remain the greatest country on Earth is going to be determined by whether the leadership in this country embraces those same values."

Panetta was Director of the CIA when they took out Osama Bin Laden.

"When I faced a tough vote, I pretended I asked the average citizen of my district: If you knew what I knew on this issue, what would you do? And if we informed the average citizen of this country that we had the best evidence on the location of Bin Laden since Tora Bora, I think the average citizen would say you have to go in," Panetta said. "No one attacks the United States of America and gets away with it."

A member of the audience asked why Panetta was a Republican before 1971 but later became a Democrat. He said the change came when he faced a battle between what he was

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Barnett Series Presents NYC Novelist

(TEANECK) — Novelist Matthew Thomas, author of the acclaimed 2014 novel, "We Are Not Ourselves," will give a presentation entitled "Wordcraft in a Digital Age" in the Wilson Auditorium of Dickinson Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m., as part of the bi-annual Gene Barnett Speaker Series.

In "We Are Not Ourselves," Thomas, a New York City native, tells the story of three generations of an Irish-American family living in Queens. The New York Times Book Review described the book as "a long, gorgeous epic, full of love and caring ...one of the best novels you'll read this year."

Thomas' novel was shortlisted for both the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and the James Tait Black Prize, and the films rights have been purchased by 4th Estate in Britain and famed American producer Scott Rudin.

Thomas holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago, a master's from John's Hopkins, a master's from the Writing Seminars at the University of Chicago, and a master's of fine arts from the University of California, Irvine.

A book signing will be held following the Q&A session. The event is free to faculty, staff and students with valid FDU IDs.



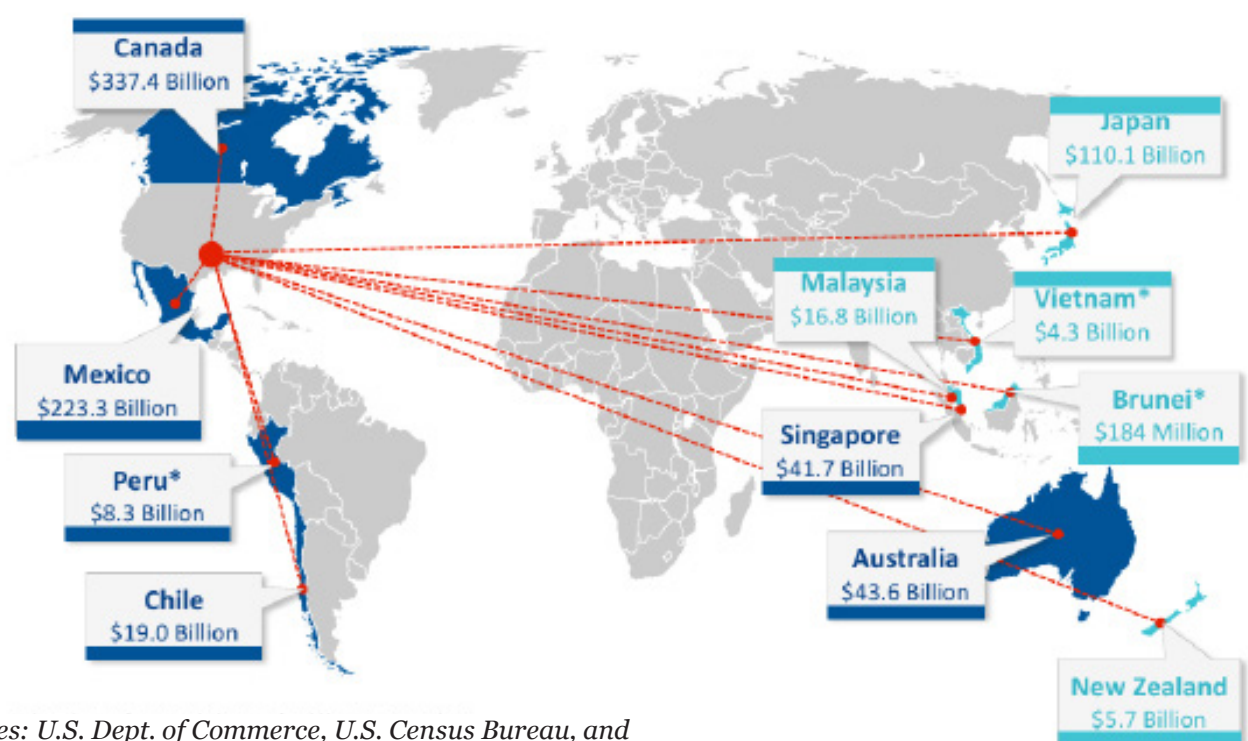
Matthew Thomas

Photo Provided

TPP Threatens Net Neutrality and Privacy

U.S. Goods & Services Exports to TPP Countries, 2011

Existing FTA Partner New FTA Partner



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data

By Daniel Clarke

(TEANECK) - The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade pact was recently signed by 12 participating Pacific Rim nations including China, United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand after almost seven years of negotiations. With the appearance of some drafts leaked by WikiLeaks back in 2013, many are very concerned with what the TPP will mean for our world.

"The question is obvious: If the TPP is so beneficial, why can't we openly discuss it?" asked Chilean journalist Vladimir Garay.

A representative from the Office of the United States Trade said not only will it eliminate more than 18,000 taxes and other trade barriers, but it will also ensure the global economy reflects U.S. interests and values by requiring fair wage, safe workplace and strong environmental rules. Many question certain policies built into the TPP.

The Atlantic published an article, "Is the Trans-Pacific Partnership Uncon-

stitutional," which questions TPP's Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) policy. ISDS is a mechanism designed to give corporations the ability to resolve conflicts with nations through the legal system. While the United States Trade Representative notes that ISDS is present in more than 3000 existing agreements, the US has never lost an ISDS case, and that TPP specifically protects the right of governments to regulate in the public interest—the leaked documents as well as history offer a different narrative. An article published by The Hill said that U.S. and Peru's existing

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Rationale Behind Russian Air Strikes

By **Melanie Perez**

(TEANECK) – Amidst a civil war stalemate and in aid to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, continues to send airstrikes into Syria.

Putin began airstrikes on Sept. 30. He said his goal is to stabilize the only legitimate regime in Syria, that of al-Assad. Russia said the airstrikes are targeting the Islamic State terrorists (I.S.) and al-Nusra front, which is linked to al-Qaeda, the militant Islamist group formed by Osama Bin Laden.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said, “The target is I.S. and nothing else.”

Michael Kofman, an s-based analyst for the Center for Naval Analyses (C.N.A.) Corporation said, “Russia’s operational tempo is about 20 sorties per day, which is not that intense, but moderate, given the logistics they have in place. The targets are known weapon storage areas, ammunition dumps, production facilities, and any command-and-control infrastructure that Syrian intelligence is aware of.”

Kofman’s analysis shows that the Russian strikes are calculat-

ed rather than striking at random. “These [targets] are the primary threats to Assad, and the areas where Syrian ground counter-offensives are likely to take place,” he said.

Kofman said that the strikes are eliminating the weapons caches and softening their strength.

The conflict in Syria began in

dozens. The anti-government protests from I.S. and other rebels grew into a civil war that after four years, halted to a stalemate. Since then, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (S.O.H.R.) reported a death toll of 310,000, roughly one percent of the entire population. As a result of the civil war, roughly 10.6 million people,



Photo Credit: Itar-Tass/Corbis

2011 when a group of children were arrested and allegedly tortured after writing “people want to the regime” in graffiti on a school. In response, citizens took to the streets in protest of the arrests and in demand of reforms. The government, under al-Assad, fired on the protesters and killed

almost half of the population, were forced out of their homes.

Experts in chemical weapons confirmed the allegations that President al-Assad was using chemical weapons to instill fear in the population. The Human Rights Watch con-

ducted an investigation in the Qaminas attacks, where they found that at least 30 civilians and 40 rebel fighters were affected by the chlorine attack.

Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, an expert in chemical weapons, said, “I have absolutely no doubt it was chlorine. It smelt like chlorine, it looked like chlorine, and three different tests said it was chlorine.”

Several countries, including Turkey and the UK, do not agree with Putin’s support of al-Assad, according to BBC. Opposition to the air strikes questions the real targets.

Al-Assad is Iran’s closest Arab ally. Paying the support forward, Iranian commanders helped Syrian forces against the rebel forces.

Saudi Arabia has called for a no-fly zone to be imposed to protect civilians from the fighting. Saudi leaders are also responsible for providing military and financial support to many of the rebel groups.

The humanitarian crisis in Syria is still up for debate in many countries, but solutions to reducing possible collateral damage are under way. After Russian and U.S. combat aircrafts had visual contact on Sept. 10., Russia and the U.S. started talks on developing basic air safety regulations for Syrian air space. Russia defense officials said they are close to a deal with the U.S. on this issue.

FDU Gone Wild



FDU welcomed unlikely visitors in the Knight Club on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Photo Credit: Tyonna Gowehe

Panetta

Continued from Page 1

ordered to do and what his conscience told him to do. It was an issue of civil rights and breaking up the dual school system in the south, where blacks and whites were separated. It was after his decision to not follow orders to back off the project that he resigned from his position of the director as the Office for Civil Rights.

“What was beginning to happen was that the [Republican] party began to be less accepting of those who were moderates. I could see, gradually, that those who were supporting those issues that I believe in were in many ways being driven out of the party,” Panetta said.

James Gandolfini, the actor who played Panetta in “Zero Dark Thirty,” asked about the accuracy of Panetta’s character because the director of the film made Gandolfini use a lot of swear words. Panetta said, “You know, that’s the one thing that you got right.”



Photo Credit: Google Images

TPP Treaty

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Free Trade Agreement (FTA) enabled a US firm to pressure Peru’s government to reopen a smelter that had severely lead-poisoned hundreds of children in La Oroya, Peru by launching an \$800 million ISDS claim against the Peruvian government.

The joining countries make up 40 percent of the global GDP, and the Peterson Institute for International Economics predicts savings could boost the world economy by \$223 billion by 2025.

“This is coming at a great time with global growth slowing and growing tariffs stifling trade,” said Forbes. Tom Donilon, President Obama’s National Security Advisor, called TPP “the centerpiece of our economic rebalancing.” One country not included in this agreement, however, is China. While Forbes claims China has taken a “wait-and-see” attitude, some believe China was purposely left out.

Jagdish Bhagwati on Project Syndicate, said, “TPP is a political response to China’s new aggressiveness, built therefore in a spirit of confrontation and containment, not of cooperation.”

TPP promised a “free and open Internet” and “reflects the appropriately strong copyright protections and enforcement that we have in U.S. Law.” The Electronic Frontier Foundation noted numerous aspects of the drafted text’s Intellectual Property Chapter that “would have extensive negative ramifications for users’ freedom of expression, right to privacy and due process, and hinder peoples’ ability to innovate.” They claim that on top of pushing already controversial aspects of US copyright law onto other nations, it would also include further expansion of copyrights, create new threats for journalists, put restrictions on fair use, and place a greater liability on internet intermediaries of other issues.

“The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Restricting Access to Affordable Medicines,” an article by Public Citizen, said, “This would include extensions of

monopoly drug patents that would allow drug companies to raise prices for more medicines and even allow monopoly rights over surgical procedures. For people in developing countries involved in the TPP, these rules could be deadly – denying consumers access to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and cancer drugs.”

Though the Trans-Pacific Partnership is very fair to businesses, it may inadvertently make it very difficult for poor nations to get medical treatment. The article also said that the TPP eliminates certain safeguards against patent abuse that may allow low-quality patents that contribute little to innovation but greatly to price.

Despite claiming the title of “the most robust enforceable environment commitments of any trade agreement in history,” National Geographic published an article in 2014 that exposed a “lack of fully-enforceable environmental safeguards.”

Peruvian history illustrates what little effect such environmental clauses in a treaty result in. “Peru’s Amazonian forests face illegal logging crisis with ‘major violations’ suspected in almost 70 percent of all logging concessions,” said scientific researchers on nature.com.

“The more we know about the TPP, the less it looks like a door to the future, and more like a rope around our necks,” said Vladimir Garay of Chile.

Public Citizen presents a large amount of research that suggests the TPP may include increasing income inequality, increase medicine costs, sneak in threats to Internet freedom, empower corporations to attack our environmental and health safeguards, and undermine human rights.

Many of these issues directly contradict what the Office of the United States Trade Representative’s site on the TPP states. With the agreement still shrouded in secrecy, citizens can only wait for more information to be publicized.

Entertainment

The Future is Now

By Molly Holt

Great Scott! It has already been 30 years since the 1985 classic movie, “Back to the Future,” was released in theaters. On July 3, 1985, the world was introduced to the world of Marty McFly, Doc Brown and their time traveling DeLorean.

Michael J. Fox starred as McFly and Christopher Lloyd as Brown. The film transported audiences through time as McFly traveled back 30 years from 1985 to 1955.

The film became the highest grossing film of 1985. “Back to the Future” was so successful that Universal Studios ordered production of two sequels to the original film. Where “Back to the Future” was relevant to teenagers of the 1980s, “Back to the Future Part II” relates to an entirely new audience.

When “Back to the Future Part II” was released in 1989, people had high hopes for the future. People envisioned flying cars and jet packs as every day modes of transportation with the new millennium. In the exciting sequel, McFly traveled 30 years into the future to 2015. He discovered that hover boards had replaced skateboards and billboards had been replaced by holograms. At first glance, the future is far different from the 2015 we are all

familiar with now, but when looked at closer, it becomes clear that the makers of “Back to the Future” might have been onto something.

McFly finds out that the 80s, his time period, have become somewhat of a novelty by 2015. This is accurate to real life 2015. There are 80s themed diners, parties and attractions at amusement parks. He also encountered a computer screen that tries to take his order. In present day, many restaurants such as Applebee’s have begun replacing their menus with iPads that can be used to place an order. Even holograms have reached new levels, bringing people such as Michael

Jackson “back to life” to audiences. Surprisingly, our vision of the future has not changed much since the 80s. People still picture flying cars and hover boards roaming through the air as a part of the future. However, it is surprising that what was once thought of as the future, is a present reality for the current generation.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the film series, as well as acknowledging the fact that “the future” has finally come, many companies are embracing the idea of futuristic 2015. Pepsi’s promotion has become the most famous. In “Back to the Future Part II,” McFly asks for a Pepsi Free

and is instead presented with a Pepsi Perfect, a soda that was fictional until recently. Pepsi announced that they were now releasing only 6,500 bottles of the new ‘Pepsi Perfect.’ Their slogan, “The Future is Now,” perfectly captures the idea that 2015 is the future. ‘Pepsi Perfect’ is the same Pepsi taste, in a futuristic looking bottle. Pepsi began distributing the soda to people who came dressed as Marty McFly to the New York City Comic Con this October. In addition to Pepsi Perfect, fictional commercials for hover boards and the famous fictional sequel Jaws 19 have been released in celebration of the film.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research has also taken advantage of the “future” being now. “Back to...A Future Without Parkinson’s” is a charity movement that will be taking place at Teaneck Cinemas. On Sunday, Oct. 18, Back to the Future will be played in all of the theaters from 10am until noon. There will also be a raffle and silent auction. All proceeds will go to the foundation. In addition, on Oct. 21, 2015, the day that Marty McFly travels into the future, the theater will be playing all three parts of the Back to the Future series.

The “Back to the Future” franchise has forever changed how the world views time travel and the future.



Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd and in the original. Photo: Google Images

Stephen King Still Chillin’

By Chris Madden

Stephen King is one of the most successful and prolific authors of our time. Widely known as a horror writer, King has published over fifty novels and short story collections that have terrorized millions of readers since the early 1970s. From a lonely caretaker in a remote hotel trying to kill his family in “The Shining” to an evil clown kidnapping and consuming young children in “It,” King has rightly earned his place as master of the macabre.

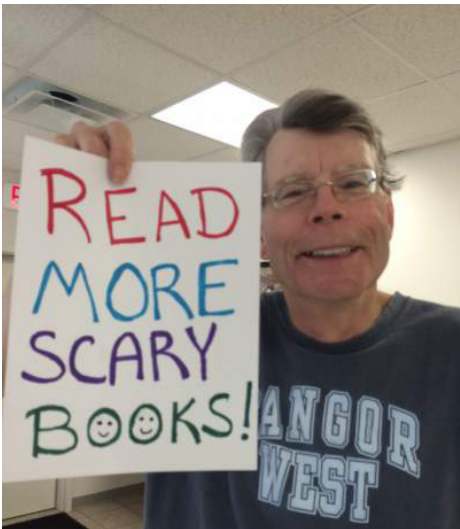


Photo Credit: Google Images

Millions of readers may know King through his novels, but he is at his terrifying and grotesque best when writing short fiction. “Night Shift” is King’s first short story collec-

tion, containing a number of works published well before the release of his first novel. Vampires, demonic priests, killer children, mutated rats and boogeymen all make appearances in these twenty tales of horror. “Jerusalem’s Lot” serves as a prequel to King’s 1975 novel “Salem’s Lot,” one of the greatest vampire novels ever written. Blood and gore are abounding in “The Mangler,” while a mysterious entity murders young children in “The Boogeyman”. Demon-possessed trucks trap a group of survivors in a diner, crushing anyone who tries to escape in “Trucks.” In “Children of the Corn,” a group of killer children sacrifice an entire town in order to please an evil deity. Vampires return to the cursed town of Salem’s Lot during the events of “One for the Road.”

When asked about why he writes such terrifying tales, King responded, “Why do you assume I have a choice?”

King reminds us of our vulnerabilities in his work. Fear is a powerful emotion. While we know that things that go bump in the night are usually just the house creaking or the wind howling, we can’t help but wonder “what if?” We know that there are no evil creatures hidden in our closets, but we shut the doors anyway. We are quite certain monsters are not under the bed, but we sleep entirely under the covers anyway. These are the feelings Stephen King elicits in his stories. “Night Shift” is King at his best.

Late Night Thoughts

By Armand Butera

For decades, the late night stages have been illuminated by near blinding lights amidst an equally impressive roar from the eager crowds. While these remain a constant on the late night scene, the real changes are the show runners in front of cameras. Over the course of five years, the late night environment has changed dramatically, but this evolution has yet to prove disappointing. From newcomer Stephen Colbert, to the original “fresh face,” Jimmy Fallon, each host brought exciting new twists to television that kept audiences glued to the screens.

One of the most appealing aspects of these revamped talk shows is the capability these shows have for including and encouraging more interaction amongst viewers and competitors. Gone are the days when audiences would rally for either Letterman or Leno (two television icons who said their farewells to their respective shows). In their place are nights in which one host will invite another on for a solid eight to ten

minutes of praise. The feeling of joy extends past the show runners and their studio audiences. Now, more than ever, viewers at home or on the go can interact with their favorite hosts. The key to a successful show is not only finding relatable topics, but allowing the audience to share in the process as well. One program seems to be reigning supreme in the late night ring and the host victor is none other than Stephen Colbert.

Colbert is not a foreign face on television. Having spent a decade as the host of the political satire show “The Colbert Report,” the faux-conservative quickly became a household name alongside his friend and former employer, Jon Stewart. Stephen announced his departure from the program earlier this year, to fill the shoes of the legendary David Letterman. Many fans awaited his arrival on the “Late Show.” He delivered numerous spectacular performances since his arrival weeks ago. Yet many would agree that his execution was flawless due to his involvement with social media months prior, giving him ample information and topics for a multitude of shows.



Stephen Colbert on the Colbert Report. Photo Credit: Google Images

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Features



The MLK Memorial



The Washington Monument from afar



The Lincoln Memorial

A Student’s Chronicle of Washington D.C.

By Christina Martinez
Contributions by Melanie Perez

The Dean of Students, Office of Student Life, Global Scholars and Sands of Time hosted a two day over-night trip to Washington D.C. during fall break Oct. 11-13. The trip included the National Zoo, National Mall, Ford Theater and National Portrait Gallery.

Students had free reign to explore D.C. I chose to spend the weekend with my friend Melanie, a weekend that proved to be nothing short of eventful.

After a four-hour bus ride, we arrived at the Omni Hotel to find our rooms not ready. However, when we arrived at the four-star hotel later to delicious fresh breakfast, classy vintage interior, and fancy pillows, it was worth the wait.

During the wait, the group decided to go to the National Zoo. A walk that should have only taken five minutes ended up taking 30, because we ended up taking the long way to the zoo.

Despite travel challenges, the zoo was worth the extra travel time. It featured elephants and pandas, animals not present in all zoos. Unfortunately, many of the exhibits were closed or in renovation. Before we had discovered the closing of those exhibits, we had already walked the entirety of the zoo, and in that trip alone, had completed almost 8,000 steps.

Day one ended with Carol King’s “Beautiful,” a musical about her life and music. The acting and singing were amazing, but the show did have some holes about her relationship with Gerry Goffin. The musical revealed an affair that Gerry had been having with one of the singers he wrote for, but we later found out via Google that the woman was actually pregnant when

the affair was disclosed.

The second day was a nine-hour opportunity to explore the National Mall. We soon came to realize that nine hours was way too long to be walking around. We tried to see all the monuments, got lost, ended seeing them three times, and got lost again. I have always wanted to see the White House, but we were not sure where to go. Melanie thought to ask someone for directions, but didn’t realize with whom she was speaking to.

She walked up to the security guard behind the booth, but the guard started freaking out. He said, “Ma’am, I can answer your question once you step behind the fence.” He then stepped out of the booth in a bullet-proof vest and a fully stocked utility belt, gun included. It turns out he was a secret service officer and Melanie had walked to the entrance of the road to get to the White House.

The incident with the secret service officer wasn’t even the most interesting event of the day. We witnessed a man and a woman petting a squirrel in a park, and a different man trying to take a selfie with another squirrel.

The last day of the trip included a walking tour-turned-investigation of Lincoln’s assassination at the Ford Theater. The tour ended near the White House where I realized that the previous day, we had visited the back of the White House twice rather than seeing the front.

We finished our trip at the National Portrait Gallery, which featured the “Eye Pop” exhibit focusing on the celebrity gaze. It had pictures of Eva Longoria, Audra McDonald and Serena Williams, and a painting of LL Cool J by Kehinde Wiley and portrait of Toni Morrison by Robert McCurdy.



The Korean War Memorial



Part of the WWII Memorial

All photo credit: Christina Martinez

Dorm of the Week

By MarcDaline Dorsainvil

Freshmen Lauren Alicia Casildo and Ti’Niejah Lee were not looking for a color scheme when it came to decorating their room. Instead, they did take random objects that reminded them of their personalities and houses. These ladies of Linden 5 have worked together to bring a warm glow to their room that welcomes any guest that stops by.

Lauren chose the right side of the room, but did not know what to do with it. She worked with what she had to make herself more at home.

Ti’Niejah chose the left. She decorated her side to look like her room at home. She lives about 2 hours away and does not get the chance to visit during the weekends. From her perspective, the room looked like a jail cell and she didn’t want to feel like a prisoner in her own dorm.

With both of them collaborating, they put up posters on the walls and closet door to make the room more vibrant.

Both of them said they did not want a specific color scheme. The reasoning was that they are both such random people that anything that they found cute would fit in. Around their desks, anything ranging from family pictures, event calendars, and a wooden vintage makeup cabinet, can be found.

Now they think that their room no longer resembles a jail cell—people don’t want to leave! Their room has been brightened up by many colors of the rainbow.

Despite the room’s vibrance, the pair still feel as though their room is missing some decorations. For the rest of the year, they plan on continuing to buy decorations to fill it up.



Photo Credit: MarcDaline Dorsainvil

The Transfer Transition

By Caroline Senion

Coming in as a transfer student can be like starting freshman year of college for some students who don’t know what to expect. It may be their first time being away from home. Essentially, it is a start to a new journey in college. There are also fears that transfer students will have difficulty making friends because non-transfer students already have their set circle of friends.

The transition from a two-year college to a four-year university

will allow transfer students to have a grounded mindset on what they are going to achieve in school. Basically, they are starting over and building a name for themselves.

Having already experienced college at a different institution opens up a transfer’s mind to thinking about what they can bring to the college they’re transferring to.

As Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

When students transfer from a two-year college, they tend to not

have the same opportunities that are available at four-year universities, like a sense of community. Since they may not have gotten a chance to have deep relationships with their peers in a two-year college, they may want to be able make lifetime friends and unforgettable memories. Transfer students often want to take advantage of every opportunity to have new experiences.

However, there are advantages to being a transfer student. Since many are starting over, they may be able to maintain better focus on their studies. They are able to gain better

grades due to a reinvigorated focus. Transfer students also get the chance to meet people from different places who may have had similar transitions into university life.

Transfers usually come in with many class credits, making school life less stressful. Joining a sorority or a fraternity is an opportunity that is only available at four-year schools. Greek life is a great aspect of attending a four-year school that two-year school students don’t have the opportunity to get involved in unless they transfer.

Recipe of the Week

Homemade Ice Cream Cake

By Molly Holt

Ingredients:

- ½ gallon of your favorite ice cream
- 1 package of Oreos
- 1 tub of cool whip
- 1 can of whipped cream
- Sprinkles (optional)
- Hershey kisses (optional)
- Decorative Icing (optional)

Directions:

Fill 9x11 cake pan just below halfway with your choice of ice cream by scooping the ice cream in small increments into the pan and flatten them together into one rectangular layer. Place filled pan in the freezer.

While that layer is freezing, put the Oreos in a plastic bag and crush them into small pieces.

When it is frozen, take the first layer out and sprinkle a thin layer of Oreos on top. Then let the cake freeze for at least half an hour.

Next, scoop a second layer of ice cream on top of the Oreos and flatten it out. Freeze the cake for an hour and a half.

Finally, frost the top of the cake with cool whip and begin to decorate the cake. Use the whipped cream to create a border around the cake. Add sprinkles, Hershey kisses and cake writing to decorate the cake as needed. Then it is ready to serve!



Photo Credit: Molly Holt

Opinion

Editor’s Desk

Ladies and gents, we are already halfway through the first semester. And for me and the rest of the seniors on this campus, that means halfway through our last fall semester. This is my fourth issue as Editor-in-Chief and it has been quite a rollercoaster ride. However, one of the most important things I’m learning is that being in a leadership position allows you recognize your strengths while also forcing you to address your flaws. So before leaving college, I really urge people to not only join organizations on campus, but also retain leadership roles within those organizations.

This year, we have a lot of new writers apart of our team. As a student-athlete, I’m familiar with being apart of different teams, because every year someone graduates and we gain


new players. So, this is my new team and when you are building a new team, one of the most important key factors is communication. Strong communication with every aspect of the team: the executive board, the staff members, the advisor, and yourself. Without a solid basis of communication, it’s impossible for everyone to be on the same page and that is an absolute necessity for any organization to succeed.

Something else I’ve realized is that you can’t do everything yourself. No matter how much you think you can, you can’t and there’s nothing wrong with that. That’s why you have a team. When it comes to my team, we all have the same goal. We want to produce a solid paper for the FDU community because you guys deserve it. However, having long-term and short-term

goals are key too. You can’t just have your eyes on the final prize or product because then if you aren’t seeing the final product/prize you want, that’s when all the stress and anxiety kicks in. You don’t want that so remaining focused on the process and those short-term goals keep you on track so that you can ultimately reach that long-term goal.

Lastly, trust is so important. Trusting yourself that you can be accountable for the decisions you make and your actions. Trusting your team to be accountable for their actions and the decisions they make. Trusting your advisor that he or she is there to help you grow as individuals, as a team, and as an organization. Being a leader on any team is never easy but honestly, nothing is life worth having, working

for, or that will make you better is ever going to be easy. So, buckle up guys because the journey to success will be a bumpy but extremely satisfying ride.



Natasha Ashby

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your article “Meal Ploy’E” it implies that there is not a meal plan for commuters. However, this is not accurate. The Commuter meal plan is “Meal Plan F.” It is \$700 and the student gets \$375 flex and get 5 cafe swipes a week.

It’s not on the main website whatsoever, for whatever reason, so I totally understand the oversight. For further information, please contact the Office of Residence Life. Check out the following link:

<http://view2.fdu.edu/legacy/florham-housingmealplanresformnewstudent-fall2010edits.pdf>


Thank you,

Charles McNeil
Resident Assistant
Commuter Council Treasurer
G-MEO Study Abroad Recruiter
Fairleigh Dickinson University
201-892-1897

Melanie Perez responds:

We appreciate Charles McNeil’s response. Unfortunately, the link he provided is a meal plan application for the Florham Campus.

On the Metro campus, there is a meal plan F, but the criterion for a meal plan reduction is that it can only be done for medical, religious, class schedule conflicts, etc., and must be submitted by the first day of class each semester. The application does not mention commuter students.



Have something to say?

Write to us!

Letters and comments up to 250 words sent via email will be considered for publication and may be edited for grammar, content and length.

All letters must include a full name, university affiliation, and phone number for verification (phone number will not be published).

Email: equinoxFDU@gmail.com

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Features

Amber Rose Slut Struts

By MarcDaline Dorsainvil

Slut shaming has become a big issue as more people are becoming accustomed to calling women “sluts.” However, one woman has had enough of the slut shaming and took a stand for what she thinks is right. On Oct. 3, Amber Rose launched a slut walk in Los Angeles, California.

The walk started at the intersection of Seventh and Olive streets, and made its way to Pershing Square. Rose planned an itinerary, which consisted of speakers, a fashion show, a discussion, a poetry slam, a comedy show and a special performance.

Many people had signed up to stand with her against slut shaming. Those who are against slut shaming think it is wrong because labeling a woman by such a term disrespects their choices. I feel that if a woman wants to exercise control of her own body, then she should be able to do as she pleases without fear of being chastised.

This campaign had everybody applauding Rose for standing up for the rights of women. However, I feel as though this campaign wasn’t done for the right reason. As far as I can tell, Amber Rose was only motivated to start this campaign after Kanye West

called her out during an interview. “Unfortunately, I was extremely slut-shamed,” Rose said during her speech at the slut walk. “I was called ‘nothing but a stripper.’ [West asked,] why would he ever be interested in me? I’m just a baldhead stripper from Philly. I was a gold digger. Apparently he had to take 30 showers after being with me. That’s what he said. I guess that just washed all my sexy bald-headedness off of his ass.”

I feel that if she felt really strongly about slut shaming, Rose would have done this way before West made that comment. Once he did,

Rose did use that motivation to bring attention to a good cause, but were her intentions pure?

There are people out there that feel passionately about something and would take a stand anywhere and anytime, but Amber Rose’s passion only came when West slandered her name. West made that statement in February 2015 and now it is October 2015. I think that if this anti-slut shaming campaign were for the right reason, it would have been done earlier.



America: Gunning for Resolution

By Melanie Perez

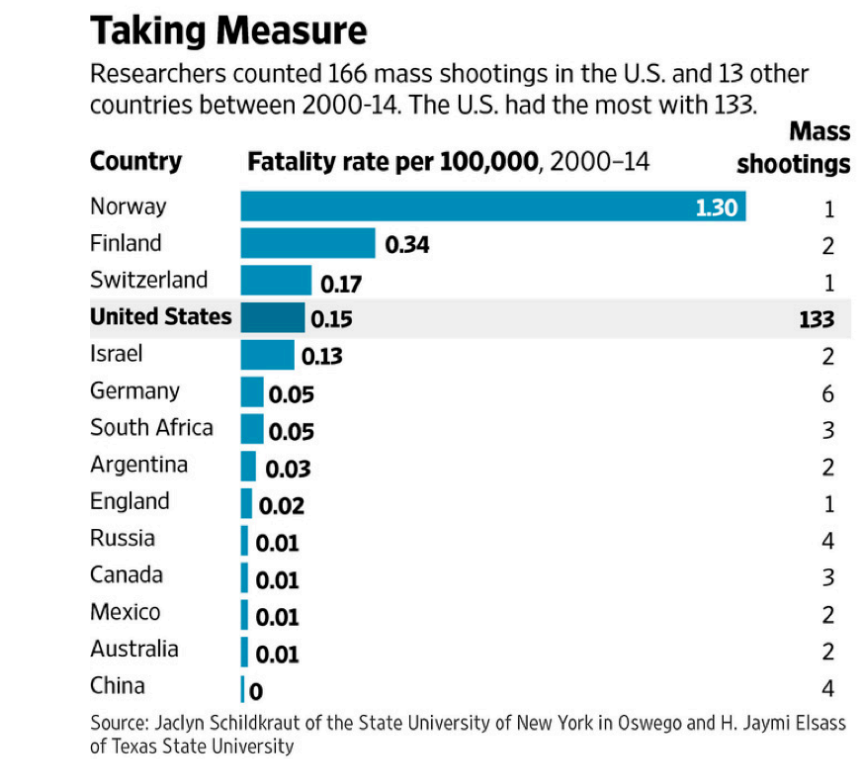
There were 133 mass shootings between 2000 and 2014 according to a study done by the State university of New York and the University of Texas. It is no secret to the American people that gun control is one of the most widespread controversies to envelop the United States. To restrict or not to restrict is the age-old question at hand. While this issue seems to unceasingly continue, it is a debate that needs to be had until a consensus can be reached.

Primary debates for the presidency and the recent Oregon school shooting has the gun control issue in the spotlight once again. Politicians, and much of the American population, seem to think that gun control is an issue of Constitutional rights. I disagree; it is an issue of the character of the nation and the heavy individualistic nature of the American people.

Advocates of strict gun control laws believe that the large number of guns in the country is what causes high murder rates and high mass shooting rates. Advocates of gun freedom believe that it is not the guns that are causing these murders; it is the people behind the guns that are to blame.

Both groups have valid points, but both groups are also too extreme in their proposed actions and both neglect the issue that in today’s individualist culture, nobody wants rights revoked, even if that right is not in use.

Having absolutely no guns



in the U.S. is unrealistic because the right to bear arms is ingrained in American culture. Retaining a free-reign of gun purchasing, except to criminals or to the deranged, is also unrealistic because that is not enforceable without a system overhaul.

In England, the gun laws are so strict that their police are not armed. On the occasion that they are, their weapon must be signed out and returned by the end of the evening. There has been one mass shooting in England between 2000 and 2014.

After a catastrophic mass shooting in Australia in 1996, the

Australian government participated in a massive buyback of semi-automatic weapons and rifles, collecting about one-fifth of all of all firearms in circulation in Australia. New legislation prohibited the private sale of firearms, required that firearms be individually registered to owners, and required a legitimate reason for the need of a firearm besides self-defense. Since then, Australia’s rate of homicide by firearm has plummeted and there were only two mass shootings between 2000 and 2014.

After a mass shooting in the U.S., the mindset of the country is

bipolar. Some people rally against concealed weapons while others get permits for concealed weapons to protect themselves. In this case, the right to carry concealed weapons is different from the basic right to bear arms.

I could run a farm and own three shotguns to ward off the coyotes that are eating my chickens and be completely within my right to bear arms on my own property.

A college student who carries a concealed weapon to school every day to protect himself in case of a mass shooting is both dangerous and terrifying. If a shooter comes to a school where there are students carrying weapons that they are not properly trained to handle, then the problem becomes 50 times worse. Even if students are trained, there is a difference between general weapons training and weapons training under stress. The right to carry concealed weapons not only makes it easier for criminals to mask their intent, but even worse, it also increases the odds of friendly fire.

I understand that it is our Constitutional right to bear arms, but just because we have this right does not mean we have to use it. Without a complete overhaul of both our gun control system and American gun culture, this issue is never going to be solved. How many more shootings need to occur before there is a Congressional sit-down about a practical way to deter mass murder via firearm? Having no guns might not be the answer, but having at least one gun per person is not the answer either.

Coach Puccio Looking to Go Deep in Playoffs

By Jeremy Gaitan

(TEANECK) - After suffering a tough 7-0 loss to the Bryant Bulldogs and getting eliminated from the NEC tournament last season, FDU Men’s Baseball plans to have a stronger team for this upcoming 2016 season, starting with rebuilding the team and changing their style of play. Head Coach Gary Puccio has a new strategy for getting the team ready to play better baseball.

“We’re going to try and be more aggressive on offense,” says Puccio. “We have a good defense, but we can still get better at it.”

Starting last season, Puccio and his coaching staff began to look for new recruits, looking at high school players in the east coast, and even in the Midwest, to see who would be perfect for the FDU Baseball program and fill in the roster spots for eight senior players who graduated. After some time and assortment, Puccio and his staff were pleased to find 14 new play-

ers for the team. Thirteen of which are freshman and one junior transfer, along with eight new pitchers.

Some of the new recruits include Chris Kachmar, a 6’3” hard throwing righty from East Greenville, PA, who was named to the top prospect team by Perfect Game USA, which is the country’s leading high school baseball scouting organization. During the Knight’s first fall game on Sunday, October 4, against St. Joseph’s college, a division III school, two freshman showed their dominance on the baseball diamond as Evan McDonald, an all-district and all-county catcher from Circleville, OH, and Craig Alleyne, a fast and strong outfielder from Philadelphia, PA, hit 2 HR’s each, as the Knights won the game 14-4.

As well as new players, FDU’s baseball’s field, the Naimoli Family Baseball Complex, will feature the long awaited new bleachers, along with a press box, which is almost completed, just in time for the home opener. No

longer will fans have to come with their own folding chairs, as the bleachers will provide fans with great seats, along with a great view of the field.

The Knights season opener is

months away, but when the first pitch dinner comes around, players, their families, the coaching staff, and alumni, will be excited to hear what’s in store for this upcoming season.



Coach Puccio in conference on the mound. Photo: Larry Levanti

Score

Men’s Soccer:

- 10/9/2015 LIU Brooklyn Conference Game Teaneck, N.J. Home L 3-2
- 10/13/2015 Princeton University Princeton, NJ Away L 4-1
- 10/17/2015 Central Connecticut State University Conference Game Teaneck, N.J. Home L 2-1

Women’s Soccer:

- 10/11/2015 Central Connecticut Conference Game Teaneck, N.J. Home W 1-0 (2 OT)
- 10/16/2015 LIU Brooklyn Conference Game Brooklyn, N.Y. Away W 3-0
- 10/18/2015 Wagner Teaneck, N.J. Home W 3-1

Box

Women’s Volleyball:

- 10/10/2015 Saint Francis University Conference Game Loretto, PA Away W 3-2
- 10/11/2015 Robert Morris University Conference Game Moon Township, PA Away L 3-0
- 10/17/2015 St. Francis Brooklyn Conference Game Hackensack, N.J. Home W 3-0
- 10/18/2015 LIU Brooklyn Conference Game Hackensack, N.J. Home L 3-0

Student Athlete Profiles

Kellie Natham

By Molly Holt

Freshman Kellie Natham is majoring in business, with a concentration in accounting. She is from Pasadena, California and has two older brothers. Both of her brothers played college baseball; therefore Natham planned to maintain the family tradition of being a college athlete. FDU’s Softball Coach recruited her to play third base after watching her compete during a tournament in her home state.

Softball has always been a major part of Natham’s life. She began playing softball at the tender age of four. She played all four years throughout high school, as well as on a travel team. Although Natham was highly focused on softball, it was not the only sport that she played. She also played soccer and volleyball. Natham said softball is both physically and mentally demanding.

Natham has experienced the differences between the East and West coasts. She thinks the people are the biggest difference.

“People are more willing to have conversations, like openly, with people you don’t know here, than they



Photo Credit: Molly Holt
are in California,” she said. “It is definitely a culture shock.”

Natham’s favorite professional athletes are softball legend Jennie Finch and Los Angeles Angels center-fielder Mike Trout.

Natham plans on playing softball all four years for FDU. “I like the challenges of having to balance school and softball,” she said.

After college Kellie would like to spend her time traveling and exploring other countries.

Mary Bell

By MarcDaline Dorsainvil

Mary Bell is a freshman athlete from Colorado who is majoring in Nursing. As a volleyball player, she has a lot on her plate. This includes homework, studying, and practice. It’s also difficult for her to find time for herself.

“The practice schedule is pretty similar to my high school one, with the expectation of additional training in the mornings. So as far as time management goes, that transition had been pretty easy,” Bell said.

When it came to playing in college, Bell found it to be different because of the level of play. Everyone on her team is talented and it pushed her to do better, along with helping the team be more successful.

Bell said she has had enough time to give each class and practice the time that it deserves. She has been on top of everything and doing her best to not let everything pile up.

“It’s been really important for me to plan in advance to get work done because sometimes I’ll have tests or papers due the day after games,” she said.

Bell gets pumped for games by listening to music. When she isn’t get-



Photo Credit: Larry Levanti

ting pumped for a game or studying for a class, Bell can be found participating in any of her favorite hobbies, such as playing beach volleyball, hiking and running. When she gets the chance, she hangs with her teammates on the weekends, when they aren’t busy with volleyball.

“So far, I love getting to play volleyball in college,” she said. “It’s always been a dream of mine and I’m having a lot of fun being challenged.”