
The^(last) Equinox

Covering the days and knights...

at FDU's Metropolitan Campus

April 27, 2016



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**See Opinion
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The elimination of the 2016-17 operating budget for The Equinox by the Student Life department brings to an end 60 years of continuous publication of the student newspaper of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Photo Credit: Dustin Niles

FDU Women Clinch Two More Titles



Women's Tennis and Women's Golf capture NEC Championship titles on Sunday to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Photo Credit: Northeast Conference

By Rebecca Fischer

(TEANECK) - On Sunday, April 24, both the women's tennis team and the women's golf team brought home Northeast Conference Championship titles, bringing FDU's tally to a total of four NEC Championships so far this year.

The tennis team's championship against the Bryant Bulldogs was held in West Windsor, N.J. The Knights, coming from behind in the competition, had to go undefeated to beat the Bulldogs for the win. It all came down to freshman Liza Rachenko in the final matchup, and on an error from her opponent, Rachenko was able to capture the NEC Championship title

for the Knights.

"When I was playing the third set, I saw everybody coming to my court to watch," Rachenko said. "No words were needed — I knew I was the clincher. My team, the men's team, and my coaches believed in me and that's what really helped me win."

This marks the fourth NEC Championship title for the women's tennis team in just five years. The team is happy to be going back to the NCAA tournament where they will compete on Friday, May 6 against an undetermined opponent.

"It is unbelievable and incredibly awesome," Rachenko said. "I am so proud of my team. Congratulations, we made it."

The golf team competed in Daytona, Fla. and picked up their second consecutive NEC Championship title on the same day as the tennis team.

After maintaining a two-day lead at the tournament, the Knights officially claimed their win on Sunday with a one-stroke victory over the Sacred Heart Pioneers. All five of the Knights finished among the top 15 at the tournament, including a second-place finish from junior Rebecca Wright and a fourth place finish from freshman Anneke Strobach.

"To win two years in a row is an amazing feeling and an opportunity that very few people are fortunate enough to experience," Wright said.

"What makes it even more enjoyable is sharing the success with such a great group of girls. Our team is so diverse and everyone brings their own talent and characteristics to the team, and aside from being exceptional golfers they are also great friends."

The Knights will head to Baton Rouge, LA next to compete in the 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Regionals amongst an 18-team field.

With two teams heading into their respective NCAA tournaments, a total of four NEC Championships in the 2015-16 season, and more accolades than can be counted, the Knights have given the FDU community reason to be proud this year.

News

Broadway: From Bankrupt to Breathtaking

An Evening with Michael Riedel

By Angela Calvo

(TEANECK) - “We look at these beautiful theatres in Times’ Square now, but back in the 70’s they were not landmarked. They were being torn down because they had more value as parking lots than they did as theatres,” said celebrated author and theater columnist Michael Riedel to the Wilson Auditorium audience on the April 12 installment of the semi-annual Gene Barnett Speaker Series.

“In 1968, Broadway attendance hits an all-time high of 10 million people. Four years later in 1972, only four million people went to see a Broadway show,” Riedel said. “This is an industry that lost half its customers in four years. Very few businesses could survive that.”

Riedel’s confidence in his knowledge of Broadway demanded attention during his educational talk titled “Give ‘em the Old Razzle Dazzle: How a Colorful Band of Broadway Characters Helped Save New York City,” which also included a discussion of the highlights of Broadway’s present season.

“There were a handful of people... who stuck by a dying business when everybody else was leaving, saved it, [and] turned it around,” Riedel said.

Riedel’s talk included key components that were featured in his 2015 book, *Razzle Dazzle: The Battle for Broadway*, which tells the history of producers, directors, actors and artists battling for the creative and financial control of Broadway in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

“New York City is going bankrupt [at this time], Broadway’s audience is leaving the city, forget about tourists--they’re not coming to New York City in the late 60’s-early 70’s., and the shows are being done in a neighborhood where the police are passing out leaflets to people telling them to get out Times’ Square by 6 o’clock,” Riedel said, emphasizing the fact that Broadway was once a crime-ridden section of New York City filled with bars and strip clubs—much unlike the well-lit, ever-awake tourist area that it is today.

Riedel’s passion for theater became even more evident when he spoke about the shows that became unexpected hits.

“If I had brought you aside and said, ‘I’m going to take this one-thousand page French novel by Victor Hugo and turn it into a musical,’ you’re going to get as far away as possible,” Riedel said. “But that was *Les Miserables*, which today has grossed 6.5 billion dollars.”



Michael Riedel spoke during this semester's installment of the Gene Barnett Speaker Series in Wilson Auditorium on April 12.

Photo Credit: Google Images

Even with such a devotion to the theatrical arts, Riedel was still able to offer criticism.

“I think [producers] want to get as much money as they can possibly get their hands on now and they’re not thinking of bringing a new generation of people into the theatre,” Riedel said. “[When] I went to school in New York... we paid \$15-\$20. It was affordable. A balcony seat is now \$125 dollars. So while I’m delighted with the success of Broadway... I am disturbed and troubled by the fact that they’re

going to keep driving those ticket prices up. ...But as long as the market will bear those prices, that’s what the producers are going to charge.”

Riedel concluded his talk by hosting a Question and Answer session and a book signing followed immediately afterward. Copies of *Razzle Dazzle* were available for sale at the event.

Riedel said the success of Broadway is “a direct result of the success of New York City, and the fact that everybody in the world wants to go to New York and see a Broadway show.”

Get Soaked for Autism Awareness

By Leandra Cilindrello

(TEANECK) - The Student Nurses Association would like to invite members from each student organization to create a team for their upcoming event, the Get Soaked for Autism Awareness Water Balloon Tournament.

The tournament will be held on

April 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the basketball courts behind the SUB. All proceeds will be going to the Youth Consultation Service, which offers educational services and programs in New Jersey to those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

To participate, it will be \$15 per team of 5 members. Each team will be provided with 40 balloons the first

round. After that, it will be an additional \$1 for 10 balloons after the first round until the finals.

If you would like to make a team, please email fdusna@gmail.com with your Team Name and Players (Names & Student ID Numbers).



Out with Cigs, in with Vapes

By Dustin Niles

(TEANECK) - Cigarette usage is at an all-time low in the United States. Only 17.8 percent of adults in the U.S. smoked in 2014, while 42.4 percent smoked fifty years ago, according to the Huffington Post.

They also listed multiple efforts that have been taken to reduce smoking. These include anti-smoking ads aimed at young people, anti-smoking laws that have been passed all over the country, rising cigarette taxes and publicized science about the effects of smoking.

Colleges have taken action too. In 2003 there was only one smoke-free campus in the U.S., compared to 1,475 now, according to Truth, one of the leading advocates for the reduction of smoking. Truth, a national anti-tobacco campaign, runs numerous ads that challenge this generation to “be the generation to finish it [the fight against smoking].”

But with the drop in smoking, there has been a rise in an alternative

to cigarettes, vaping. According to the CDC, nine million people used electronic cigarettes or vapes in 2014.

“Vapes are increasingly being used as smoking cessation tools for traditional cigarette users,” the CDC states.

Just because they are being used as tools to reduce smoking, does not mean they are working.

A Reuters poll found that “75 percent of people who use electronic cigarettes or other vaporizing devices continue to also smoke traditional tobacco products.”

Even with the rise of vaping, they are not totally effective in curbing smoking. In addition, the FDA found that some vaping cartridges that were labeled “no nicotine” actually had nicotine in them. According to Truth, the government does not require vape companies to tell people what is in their products.

Vapes are on the rise and while they may help some quit cigarettes, questions remain about their effectiveness and ingredients.



Vapes are gaining speed but may not be the perfect alternative to cigarettes.

Photo Credit: Google Images

News

Michio Kaku Wows Audiences

By Chris Madden

(TEANECK) - Theoretical physicist, science communicator, and best-selling author Michio Kaku spoke to members of the FDU community in the Multi-Purpose Room in the SUB on Apr. 14.

In a conversation moderated by Eli Amdur, Kaku charmed the audience with his easy-going manner and passion for science. In the short time that he visited, Kaku explained his research in string field theory, provided humorous anecdotes about his youth,



Michio Kaku is interviewed by Sands of Time leader Eli Amdur. Photo Credit: Bill Blanchard

commented about technology’s role today, and discussed possibilities about the future.

Later in the evening, Kaku made an appearance at the New Jersey Speakers Series at NJPAC in Newark, where he captivated the audience with the future of science and technology.

He discussed the possibility of extending human lifespans, the mass production of self-driving cars, the future of money, extraterrestrial life and many other topics.

The evening concluded with a Q&A session.

FDU Named Hispanic-Serving Institution

By Elizabeth White

(TEANECK) - FDU was recently named a Hispanic serving institution. This accreditation is because of the programs in place that aim to improve Latino success.

FDU’s Metro campus is 30.1 percent Hispanic, according to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. FDU has a high percentage of Hispanic students in comparison to FDU’s Florham campus, 15.7 percent, and other New Jersey colleges. For example, Rutgers New Brunswick is 13.3 percent Hispanic.

FDU is also part of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). HACU contains more than 470 colleges and universities nationwide that are committed to Hispanic higher education, according to HACU’s website.

These programs include the Latino Promise program and Puerta al Futuro, which means “Door to the future.”

“Latino Promise is like a second family to me,” Emilia Suarez, a current student in the Latino Promise program, said.

Suarez is a communications major and history minor. She hopes to work in the Human Resources department of a company when she graduates.

“I will be the first in my family to graduate college,” Suarez said. “I’ve been telling myself that since the day I started college to make sure I stay on my game. I want to make my family even more proud of me.”

Latino Promise started in 2007 and seeks to improve Latino success in college. The program is aimed toward traditional age students who come from homes where Spanish is their

first language. FDU recruits students by providing informational sessions at high schools around the region.

“They help us transition from high school to college so we don’t feel overwhelmed especially if English isn’t your first language,” Suarez.

These informational sessions also help to explain the purpose of higher education and possible financial aid for students.

Students come out of the program with an Associate’s degree or 60 credits towards their intended major. If students maintain a certain GPA through the program, then they are eligible to receive 40 percent off tuition for their remaining years at FDU.

Puerta al Futuro is aimed at adult learners whose first language is Spanish. Students in the program start with courses in Spanish the first year and receive nine hours of English as a Second Language (ESL) support.

The second year students continue with ESL support and bilingual courses. The third year features courses in English and more ESL support, as well as an assessment that analyzes the students’ oral and written communication skills. At this point, the student has enough credits for an Associate’s degree. They continue with courses in English.

This accreditation could mean additional funding for FDU programs through the Department of Education. FDU is not yet eligible for these grants but this accreditation could lead to funding in the future.

“It makes me feel prouder to be a Latina student at FDU,” Suarez said about FDU being named a Hispanic serving institution. “Knowing that FDU has a program specifically for Latino students shows that they want everyone to be successful no matter what.”

Terrible Turkeys Terrorize Teaneck

By Dustin Niles

(TEANECK) - A flock of turkeys has been wreaking havoc in Teaneck. According to The Washington Post the turkeys stemmed from a group of 22 that were introduced to New Jersey in the 1970’s after turkeys had been extinct from New Jersey for hundreds of years.

According to NorthJersey.com, there have been a dozen complaints and a police report.

One resident, Courtney Lopchinsky, told NBC New York that a turkey broke into her house while she and her children were sitting at the kitchen table, with the broken glass in their hair and the talon marks on the table as proof.

“We were covered in glass, the bird was freaking out, the turkey was throwing his wings,” Lopchinsky said.



Turkeys are running amok in Teaneck, terrorizing multiple residents. Photo Credit: Rainbow Organic Farm

After much protest from residents, Teaneck officials finally did something about the bombastic birds.

According to NJ.com, the Department of Environmental Protection captured and removed a tom (or male turkey) from the group, which apparently keeps down aggressive behavior.

But controlling the turkeys is no easy assignment. According to The Washington Post, turkeys are actually a protected species in New Jersey, meaning that police and animal control officers cannot handle the turkeys. A local animal control officer, Vincent Acolese, donated 20 air horns to residents.

“We have to coexist as best as possible,” Acolese told NorthJersey.com.

The turkeys have not made their presence known on campus yet, but it may only be a matter of time.

Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Student Press Law Expert Addresses Free Speech

Editor's Note: The Executive Director of the Student Press Law Center wrote the following letter to the editor after reading the story on Student Life's cancellation of the 2016-17 operating budget for The Equinox, which appeared in the April 14 issue.

To the Editor:

At a private university, no First Amendment protections apply at all since the First Amendment protects only against government censorship.

perhaps in an employee's contract). That said, the best private colleges observe a hands-off approach toward student media for both altruistic and self-interested reasons. Altruistically, controlling the content of a student journalistic publication is irreconcilable with notions of academic freedom. A free press is recognized as an essential part of a healthy community, and a campus is a community.

The idea that students are under a duty to say only favorable things about their institution is a backward

At a public university, any type of reprisal over "putting the college in a bad light" would be clearly unconstitutional. So while it is legally permissible at a private institution, it is bad governance -- and bad for the university's own self-interest, since in the event of any liability suit, the university will want to run screaming from any claim that the institution controls the speech of its students. You cannot take ownership of editorial content when it suits you and disclaim it when it suits you. So interceding in newsroom decisions

technicality, or (b) a serious problem with the administration's management system, if "one missed email and you're dead" is really the operating standard.

Frank D. LoMonte, Esq.
Executive Director
Student Press Law Center
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Suite 211
Washington, D.C. 20036

director@splc.org
(202) 872-1704
www.splc.org

“A free press is recognized as an essential part of a healthy community, and a campus is a community. The idea that students are under a duty to say only favorable things about their institution is a backward notion that fundamentally misapprehends the role of journalists...”

Even the receipt of substantial federal subsidies does not convert a private university into a government agency. So the only limitations on censorship or retaliation are those contained in a rulebook of the institution itself (or

notion that fundamentally misapprehends the role of journalists, and every highly ranked private university has a press freedom policy approximating the protection that students would enjoy at a public university.

is done at the university's own legal peril.

As for the funding, it certainly sounds like there is either (a) eagerness on the part of the administration to de-fund the newspaper over a minor

The Student Press Law Center is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and tax-deductible contributions to support the SPLC's work can be made through a secure online connection at www.splc.org/give/. The Student Press Law Center is a certified Combined Federal Campaign charity, No. 96157.

To the Editor:

Having read the article about losing funding, I am in agreement

campus, it is a huge outpouring on what is going on around the area. To have one of the few extensions of the first amendment curtailed is not only

an opinion, even if some do not agree with it. Seeing the expenses to print the paper, I believe that Student Life's decision was rash. Every single indi-

stand behind the organization all the way.

William Henri

“To have one of the few extensions of the first amendment curtailed is not only a mistake, but also a touch disturbing. Everybody has the right to express an opinion, even if some do not agree with it.”

with you and I fully support the Equinox. As the only newspaper on

a mistake, but also a touch disturbing. Everybody has the right to express

vidual should have a voice, and should be entitled to express that voice. I

Sophomore

History Professor Bemoans Defunding

“Defunding The Equinox certainly will not improve the quality of “student life” at FDU or enhance the university’s appeal to prospective students.”

To the Editor:

I am dismayed to read that the Office of Student Life has decided not

student organizations. Whatever its process and deadline, though, defunding the student newspaper is a terrible idea, one that hurts not only the stu-

interested to read it during the past couple years, as the newspaper has published some excellent reporting, perceptive cultural criticism, and inci-

dents. I hope that the Office of Student Life will reconsider its decision, or that the university will step in to fund The Equinox.

Chris Rasmussen
History Professor

Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Equinox Printer Addresses Student Life

Editor's Note: Carol Kearns is the office manager of JB Offset Printing Corporation, the company that prints The Equinox. She sent a copy of the following letter to Ms. O'Brien to The Equinox for publication.

Dear Mrs. O'Brien,

I read a very disturbing article this morning in the Equinox with ref-

ly aware of how important a budget is and the need to have that guideline as a reference for the upcoming fiscal responsibility of the College. I do however also know that even when the request to complete a budget is laid on the shoulders of very well paid CEOs, they often fall short of the deadlines given. That being said I would also like to emphasize that the job that these students do in producing The Equinox

some top quality newspaper coverage. I myself take the time to read our College papers and can assure you that the FDU paper is one of the best we print. I also know that in a world of the Internet, there is still a very important local use for a newspaper. Campus life is really one of those still important connections that a paper holds. I not only know this from reading the many College papers we print, but also from

the student's involvement and opinions in those happenings. It also gives a parent a tool to find out what students are doing outside the campus.

In lieu of this unfortunate situation JB Offset Printing will offer the Equinox a discount rate for the 2016-2017 year in hope that they continue on delivering campus news to all that are interested.

Best Regards,
Carol Kearns
Office Manager

“I also know that in a world of the Internet, there is still a very important local use for a newspaper. Campus life is really one of those still important connections that a paper holds.”

erence to the newspapers misfortunate failure to file the proper paperwork that was required for the funding of the newspaper's 2016-17 budget. As an Accountant for 30 years, I am ful-

is superb. Jb Offset has been printing college and high school newspapers for over 50 years. We have easily been printing the Equinox for at least the past 15 years and have been witness to

my two son's attendance to Marist College and Monmouth University, where I know parents use the college newspaper as often as the students. It gives them a feel for what is happening and

Media Law Professor Addresses Equinox Cancellation

To the Editor:

I am sorry and deeply disappointed to read that the University Office of Student Life has decided not to fund The Equinox budget for the 2016-2017 academic year. The alternative suggested of applying for funds from a limited "pool" of monies administered by the Student Government Association Fiscal Committee is, on its face,

incurred simply won't work. Effectively the action of the Office of Student Life puts The Equinox out of business for the year.

As distressing as that is, more disturbing still is the hard-to-ignore inference that the action of the Office of Student life was driven by animus towards the newspaper, or at least, its editorial practices. The comments following the decision indicate the

important potential applicants, than the elimination of a student-run newspaper because some administrators disagree with some of its editorial decisions.

The Equinox serves more than one purpose. It distributes news, serves as a voice for students and, as significant, is a vital training ground for those students interested in a career in journalism or communications. In the last

the editors by the New Jersey Press Association.

While a private university certainly has a greater freedom to ignore the First Amendment to the Constitution, it sends a greater, more enduring message when it does not. The greatness of this country's educational model rests on its promotion and protection of academic freedom.

“I can think of no worse message that the University could send its students, and equally important potential applicants, than the elimination of a student-run newspaper because some administrators disagree with some of its editorial decisions.”

unworkable. A newspaper is an ongoing enterprise, requiring investigation, reporting, photography, editing, layout, printing and distribution, all of which incur expenses. To suggest that projected expenses should be submitted for approval in advance of being

displeasure of the Office with the editorial choices made by the paper with respect to its content. In plain English, it appears that The Equinox is being censored and censured. I can think of no worse message that the University could send its students, and equally

two years, the University community has taken just pride in the accomplishments and awards earned by The Equinox and its staff. It is ironic that the same edition of the paper that carried its obituary also reported the statewide journalism awards presented to

“Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.”
-John Milton, Areopagitica

Andrew P. Zweben, Esq.
Adjunct Professor

The Equinox Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Natasha Ashby

Managing Editor
Angela Calvo

Layout and Design Editor
Timothy Yu

Production Editor
Melanie Perez

Assignment Editor
Chris Carlson

Photo Editor
Dustin Niles

News Editor
Elizabeth White

Opinion Editor
Theresa King

Student Lifestyle Editor
Armand Butera

Entertainment Editor
Chris Madden

Copy Editors
Daniel Clarke
Leandra Cilindrello

Academic Advisor
Dr. B.F. Battistoli

Distribution:
JB Offset Printing Company, Inc.

Writers
Molly Holt
Tyonna Goweh
Jeremy Gaitan
Maya Page
Jairo Martinez

Fairleigh Dickinson University
Metropolitan Campus
1000 River Road T-SU2-03
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Phone: (201) 692-2046
equinoxfdu@gmail.com

—Opinion—

Letters to the Editor

Equinox Advisor Addresses Budget Crisis

Editor's Note: Dr. B.F. Battistoli is the academic advisor to The Equinox.

To the Editor:

When I interviewed three years ago for the position of assistant professor of journalism in the School of Art and Media Studies in University College, no aspect of the job received more emphasis than did one element: Academic Advisor to “The Equinox.” I left those interviews with a clear understanding of how important The

sey Press Foundation’s collegiate press contest. This year, the paper won three – a first, a second, and a third. The editorial staff has set a goal of six awards for next year, including one in the prized “Overall Excellence” category. I believe that goal is within their reach.

The defunding of The Equinox for 2016-17 has revealed an administrative problem that should be addressed. An athletic director could not unilaterally defund a sports team, nor could an academic director unilaterally defund one of their programs.

“A free and independent student press is vital to a university that claims to cherish and protect academic freedom.”

Equinox is to this university.

After accepting the position, I learned that it been a decade or so since The Equinox had won any sort of student journalism award. The editorial staff took on the challenge of bringing that winless streak to an end. A tremendous amount of time and effort over three years from everyone involved in The Equinox was required to raise it from a simple campus newsletter to a credible and award-winning student newspaper. Last year, The Equinox won two statewide awards - first and third place - in the New Jer-

Why should it be any different when it comes to the student newspaper, whose importance to a vibrant campus community is firmly established?

Perhaps more importantly, the ability of one department to terminate the funding of the student newspaper acts as a prior restraint on free speech, and has a chilling effect on its expression by our students. I would suggest that administrative changes must be made going forward that mandate that any change in the operating budget of the newspaper must have the prior written approval of every level of FDU

administration above it.

As reported in The Equinox on April 14, 2016, the director of student life suggested that the editorial choices and content of the newspaper has caused her department to call into question the purpose of the newspaper. That question is answered in the constitution of the organization, cited below:

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE
“THE EQUINOX” shall be a bi-monthly newspaper published

The Equinox as presently structured clearly fulfills that purpose.

A free and independent student press is vital to a university that claims to cherish and protect academic freedom. The college years are a time for the young men and women in our charge to search, to question, and to challenge. As educators, we want to nurture and encourage our student journalists by providing a supportive and protected environment for the free expression and exchange of ideas with the metro campus and the communi-

ty beyond. We want them to have the freedom to speak the truth to power, and to give voice to the voiceless.

Great universities produce lions, not lambs; leaders, not followers.

Dr. B.F. Battistoli
Assistant Professor of Journalism

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” - Evelyn Beatrice Hall, citing Voltaire

Journalism Professor Calls on President to Step Up

To the Editor:

The open exchange of ideas, the free flow of information, and freedom of speech serve as the lifeblood of a university as well as our democ-

vides needed campus news and information, such as stories on the search for a new provost, the Global Scholars and Study Abroad programs, and our Knights men’s basketball’s run at the National Championship in the NCAA’s

paper’s watchdog function; but as an educator, and a journalist, I’m forced to ask: Exactly what lesson is this institution of higher learning trying to instill in impressionable young minds and teach our future leaders by curtailing free speech, and creating an environment with an absence of constructive dialogue, by shutting down the student newspaper in what might well turn into a national embarrassment for the school?”

“Exactly what lesson is this institution of higher learning trying to instill in impressionable young minds and teach our future leaders by curtailing free speech, and creating an environment with an absence of constructive dialogue, by shutting down the student newspaper in what might well turn into a national embarrassment for the school?”

racy. But here on FDU’s Metropolitan campus those ideals are threatened as we stand amid a crisis -- a crisis of conscience and a crisis of faith in free speech -- as our award-winning student newspaper, The Equinox, and the voices of our richly diverse student body are in danger of being silenced.

The Equinox, for students and the larger university community, pro-

March Madness.

But the university appears recalcitrant in its desire to betray and punish each and every student on this campus, as well as deprive faculty and staff of their newspapers, by cutting The Equinox’s funding because of a clerical error. Some might suggest ulterior motives behind what would essentially be university censorship of the

ing free speech, and creating an environment with an absence of constructive dialogue, by shutting down the student newspaper in what might well turn into a national embarrassment for the school?

I call on President Sheldon Drucker in the final days in his post, the University Board of Trustees, and our administrators to stand up

strengthen the paper’s reach into the digital media world of smartphone apps and mobile websites by increasing funding for The Equinox, and in the process raising the university’s stature.

Ken Tarbous
Adjunct Professor
School of Art and Media Studies

—Opinion—

Student Life Stifles Student Voices

By Melanie Perez

Student Life cut the Equinox’s budget after failure to submit budget forms for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The decision was apparently that of the Fiscal Committee that was under the advisement of the Student Life office.

If the Equinox wants any funding for next year, they will have to submit separate itemized requests to the committee for each issue of the paper we wish to publish in which requests can either be accepted or denied.

In the very email in which the Equinox was told that their budget was denied for the 2016-2017 year, Student Life also told them that a “goal” for next year is to do everything possible to include stories of on-campus events and “showcase the hard work of our students & departments building campus community.”

The juxtaposition of denial of funds and “goals” of what to include in the newspaper makes it blatantly obvious that the Equinox’s livelihood strongly depends on whether or not it publishes what Student Life wants it to publish. Threats can come in a variety of ways, and controlling assets is one of them.

Now, Student Life is trying to suppress the voice of the students by telling the Equinox what it should and shouldn’t publish.

“We see articles about off-campus events, local restaurants, movies,

Not only are their actions extortion, but also a violation of the First Amendment right to freedom of the press. If the government of the United States of America, arguably the most powerful government in the world, does not have the right to dictate what is published in the press, then what gives Student Life the right to dictate what is published in a student-run newspaper?

The Equinox has won awards for the past two years in a row, which it hadn’t previously in over ten years, and acts as a point of pride for the school. It is also the voice of the students and a bridge between the student body and the administration.

In the past year, there have been improvements made to the campus that had been reported in the paper as having been major sources of complaints for students (i.e. Wi-Fi in Robison, pizza in the SUB cafeteria). That goes to show that the administration listens to the student body when complaints are made.

Now, Student Life is trying to suppress the voice of the students by telling the Equinox what it should and shouldn’t publish.

“We see articles about off-campus events, local restaurants, movies,

Students Speak Out On Advising

By Melanie Perez

The graduation rate in 2009 within six years for first-time, full-time freshmen was 52.8%, according to statistics provided on the FDU website. The rest transferred out, graduated after six years, got their Associate’s degree only, or dropped out completely.

Many factors play into why a student doesn’t graduate within six years, including family matters, employment or extenuating circumstances, but beyond these factors, the quality of academic advisement that students receive plays a critical role in whether or not they’ll graduate within that time period.

There are mixed reviews when it comes to academic advising at Metro.



Photo of Shistata Poudel provided.

Some students love Metro’s academic advising, and others think it needs improvement.

“I think academic advisors should be more responsible with their jobs, as even taking one wrong course may sometimes lead to the late graduation of a student,” said SGA Academic Affairs Senator-Elect Shistata Poudel. “Having heard some worst case scenarios, I think firstly, student voices should be addressed.”

Senior Benjamin Hollweg, an international student from Spain, said he liked the process of classes being assigned to freshmen, but once he start-

ed attending academic advising during his second semester, his issues began.

“In my second semester we still had to go to the normal academic advising,” Hollweg said. “They call you in and take you to their office, look at your Degree Audit, tell you the best classes to take depending on the slots you have empty on the audit, fill in the paper and sign it. No dialogue! I was given 12 credits for 3 terms.”

Hollweg said the problems continued when the advising moved to his academic department.

“So you go on with life as if everything is OK,” Hollweg said. “Then the academic advising transfers you to your major department. The first real meeting with my advisor in Spring 2014 put me in tears! She said I might be a bit behind, that the classes I want-

and current events... but when we know there could have been at least 2-3 articles about on-campus opportunities that were missed, it causes the purpose of the paper to be called into question,” said Jessica (Harris) O’Brien in an email to the current Equinox Editor-in-Chief, Natasha Ashby.

The point of having a student-run newspaper is that it is student run. Articles are more genuine and reflective of the student population when students run the paper because they don’t have to worry about the administration or any other school departments breathing down their necks about articles that they want to see published.

The purpose of the Equinox isn’t to be an FDU newsletter – that’s what the Internet is for. The paper is a beacon for FDU students. It’s where students go to find out what’s been happening on campus – good and bad. It’s also where students can go to find out more about what’s going on in the world in relation to the FDU community.

It’s unrealistic to think that every single issue of the Equinox is going to be filled with purely student events. There is more to a student’s life than on-campus events. Students also care

“I definitely feel fortunate that I have had such a positive experience,” Weaver said. “Both of my advisors are knowledgeable and available whenever I need them, and have been with me from the beginning of my freshmen year.

“They know me and my personal goals, and they know how to match me to the best classes and programs. Having multiple advisors allows me to feel affirmed about the advisement I receive, even if that does mean it takes longer for me complete registration.”

One student thought that the problem with Metro’s advising is the use of professors rather than full-time advisors.

A chemistry student insisted on anonymity, stating a concern about reprisals.

“My department uses the professors,” the student said. “I think the professors have enough to do that they shouldn’t also have to advise, which they aren’t very good at because it’s not their primary job.”

The student suggested that academic advising might go more smoothly if there were specific faculty or department members to do the advising, rather than full-time professors.

“I also think they should release when courses are offered ahead because they are constantly changing,” she said. “Some classes are only offered once every two years. Also, it would make planning easier to take advantage of Wroxton because many students don’t go because they can’t plan ahead for their degree.”

Another student found Metro’s academic advising to be extremely helpful in regards to taking classes on both New Jersey campuses.

“I needed a solution to not commute all the way to Teaneck,” said sophomore Navdeep Sidhu. They guided me on how to take classes at Madison and still be a Teaneck student. And

about politics, world events, movies, restaurants, and even fun things to do that don’t involve the university.

Yes, student organizations get money from Student Life and SGA to keep their club running and put on events, but in the end, it is the almost \$40,000 in tuition money that each student pays every year that funds Student Life.

The Equinox is the bastion of FDU student lifestyle and it’s preposterous that a single department is trying to cast an image of what they think our experiences should look like. If the Equinox were to play into their extortionist mind games, the paper would be no more than propaganda for the school with the sole goal of attracting students to get them more money.

Students come to FDU because it’s a great school with a great on-campus community. The school stands on its own merits and doesn’t need Student Life to control the content of the Equinox to attract students.

If anything, an oppressive school department and violated Constitutional rights are exactly the things that will make prospective students second-guess wanting to come to our “honest” university.

whenever I’ve physically gone in they have always answered all my questions.”

Her biggest criticism of Metro’s academic advising system revolved around her Degree Audit.

“There should be a training session on the Degree Audit,” Sidhu said, because most students in their freshman year are not aware of its existence until after their first semester is over. It’s a confusing layout that takes a good deal of understanding, which can be difficult, and sometimes this leads to misunderstandings in the commu-



Photo of Benjamin Hollweg provided.

nication between the student and advisor, which impacts graduation timing in the extreme cases.”

Sidhu had no idea that the school does, in fact, have a Degree Audit tutorial during freshman orientation.

Weaver, a sophomore, remembered the Degree Audit tutorial she received during her first semester.

“I remember thinking that it was insufficient,” Weaver said, “perhaps because there were too many students in the room all at once. The person giving the presentation could not possibly customize it to fit all of our needs. Though I understand my degree audit, I can’t help but think some people slipped through the cracks.”

—Student Lifestyle—

Relay For Life



Paper bags representing those who suffer from cancer lined the track of the Rothman Center.



A purple arch spanned the track of the Rothman Center for Relay for Life.



Students line up to walk around the track of the Rothman Center for Relay for Life.



"Inspirational Gospel Ensemble" performed a dance at Relay for Life.

All Photo Credit: Dustin Niles

Greek Orgs Rock FDU



Omega Psi Phi's Marcus Hill and Tremayne McKenith.

Photo Credit: Omega Psi Phi



From left to right: Monica Bobila, Bishakha Singh, Ashley Sierra, Colleen Kraus, Anjali Patel, Rebecca Lassen, and McKenzie Carroll

Photo Credit: Alpha Epsilon Phi



From left to right: Romina Croce, Cait Freda, Sierra, Colleen Kraus, Anjali Patel, Rebecca Lassen, and Bao Ngo, Noor Tariq, and Micaiah Sandoval

Photo Credit: Alpha Sigma Tau

—Student Lifestyle—

‘The Equinox’ Reminisces

By Theresa King

The Equinox is home to quite a few seniors who are moving on to new and exciting things. Their futures are bright, but their smiles on graduation day will be brighter.

Natasha Ashby, editor-in-chief, has learned a lot from her time at FDU.

"Nothing is going to be handed to me, so I have to make the most out of my opportunities," Ashby said.

Ashby feels her biggest accomplishment at the university is graduating Magna Cum Laude and with honors. She is also proud of helping her bowling team win the 2015 NEC Championship and assisting The Equinox in its two back-to-back award winning years.

"With focus, belief, determination and an incredible support system,

Calvo's best memories include her time in Wroxton, England where she spent a semester abroad. She said studying abroad was a humbling experience, as it made her realize that she has a lot more to learn about life. She wishes more people were able to study abroad and have the same experience that she had.

While Calvo is currently unsure of where she will be after graduation, she knows she will always be writing.

The Equinox has taught Calvo how necessary it is to speak up and question authority.

"Being managing editor, and being a part of The Equinox in general, has taught me the importance of making your voice heard," she said. "If nobody speaks the truth to power, nothing will ever change."

Assignment Editor Chris Carlson is graduating with a degree in His-

"Whether it was going out on Thursday nights or staying up till 5 a.m. doing papers that were due at 10 a.m., we had so much fun while we were here," she said, "so every memory is a good one."

Being a part of The Equinox has opened Cilindrello's eyes to how important students' voices are on campus.

"So many issues go unheard, but with the newspaper we were able to change so much," she said.

Cilindrello plans to finish her master's degree within the next year, continuing her education thereafter at law school.

Copy Editor Daniel Clarke feels that there's more to going to college than just the academics.

"The most interesting parts of college are the parts that aren't being taught in your courses," Clarke said. "It's the events, the people and

tremely fortunate to have been one of his students," Madden said. "Professor Rasmussen's classes were always thoroughly engaging, informative, and full of humor. He and I would spend time outside of class discussing a host of topics from politics to hard rock and heavy metal music."

After graduation, Madden plans to obtain a few years of work experience and then apply to law school. His interest lies in the fields of constitutional law and jurisprudence.

During her four years here, Sports Editor Rebecca Fischer has learned that opportunity is everywhere.

"I've gotten so much out of FDU because I put myself out there and created my own opportunities in some cases," Fischer said.

Working hard over the years and graduating Summa Cum Laude is her biggest accomplishment at the



The Equinox staff. From left to right, top row: Armand Butera, Dustin Niles, Jeremy Gaitan. Middle row: Jairo Martinez, Leandra Cilindrello, Chris Carlson, Chris Madden. Bottom row: Natasha Ashby, Angela Calvo, Theresa King, Elizabeth White, Rebecca Fischer.

Photo Credit: Dr. Bruno Battistoli

I'm able to leave FDU with the confidence and understanding that I'm going to be successful," she said.

Being editor-in-chief of the newspaper has taught Ashby the major importance of communication, as well as the skills necessary to be a leader and build a team. She hopes to become a teacher after graduation and is currently awaiting her Teach for America decision. If accepted, she hopes to teach 3rd graders.

Managing Editor Angela Calvo is graduating with an English degree. Since being here, she has learned the importance of time management as a college student.

"I think it's admirable to show your many talents, but I've learned the hard way that if you try to make time for everything, you'll have time for nothing," Calvo said.

Her biggest accomplishment at FDU was winning first place in the New Jersey Press Association awards in the Enterprise/Investigative Reporting category.

"It meant so much to be coached by our advisor, Dr. Battistoli, and editor-in-chief at the time, Amanda Silvestri, who helped us bring home the first awards that The Equinox had won in over ten years," she said. "And it feels even better to know that we won three more state awards this year while I was Managing Editor. I feel like a proud parent."

tory with an English minor.

"College is a time to figure out who you really are," Carlson said. "College solidifies the person you're going to be: an adult."

Carlson feels that his greatest accomplishments at FDU include writing an article for the paper that led to the installation of Wi-Fi in Robison Hall, as well as being sworn into the Navy. Moreover, Carlson is especially proud of being crossed over into Sigma Pi.

After graduation, Carlson will be going into the Navy with a cryptologic technician title. Looking back at his years here, he says he has "no regrets."

Copy Editor and graduate student Leandra Cilindrello said that attending FDU has made her push herself both academically and mentally.

"It also made me realize just how good I am at procrastinating and complaining," Cilindrello said.

Her biggest accomplishment at the university is tied between making the Dean's List or Honors List every semester while working three jobs and cheerleading simultaneously. Cilindrello also believes one accomplishment includes "surviving cafeteria food."

Some of her finest memories include her best friend, Olivia, whom she met during her freshman orientation.

the projects you get involved in while you're a student."

Certain memories stick out to him during his time at the university, including his semester abroad in Wroxton, Global Scholars events and being a member of IEEE.

Being an editor of the paper has taught Clarke that certain parts of the process are more entertaining than others.

"Writing can be fun, but editing will always be hard," he said.

After graduation, Dan plans to continue his studies in graduate school.

Entertainment Editor Chris Madden has made lifelong friendships during his time at the university.

"I have made lasting bonds and friendships with several of my peers, forged great connections with several professors, and grew immensely as an individual," Madden said. "I can say with confidence that had it not been for FDU, I would not be the person I am today."

Madden's greatest accomplishment during his time here is graduating Summa Cum Laude. He is also proud of the varied selection of courses he has taken, believing it made him a "better-rounded, productive citizen."

His favorite memories at the university were made sitting in Professor Rasmussen's history courses.

"As a History minor, I was ex-

—Student Lifestyle—

A Day in the Life: Resident Assistant

By Maya Page

Caitlin Gilmore, graduating in May 2017 with her MA in Criminal Justice, has been a very involved member of the FDU community over the years. This year she has had the opportunity to be a Resident Assistant for the Northpointe residence hall.

Along with her 24-hour job of being an RA, Caitlin is also President of Alpha Sigma Tau, Vice-President of Student Government Association and Inter-Greek Council, member of the University Honors Program, member of the Global Scholars Program and Treasurer of Order of Omega.

“It can be difficult [to balance] but it does teach you to manage your time and get your most important work done first so everything does not pile up,” Gilmore said.

If you want to become a Resident Assistant at FDU, the first step is to attend an information session, then go through the application and interview process. If you are chosen for the position, you then go through orientation where you get a housing assignment and co-RA.

Resident Assistants move in two weeks earlier than other students for training and bonding activities with the other RA’s. Gilmore loves the people she gets to work with and says that one of the best parts about being an RA has been the opportunity to work with her co-RA, Tori.

“She truly had become one of my good friends at the university and without this experience, I do not believe we would have become so close. We were able to share experiences including being in Greek Life, attending Knight of the Living Dead, living in Northpointe, and competing against other duty groups in creating the best bulletin board,” said Gilmore.

Every month, each RA has to put together a bulletin board for their residence hall, for which Gilmore always strives to win board of the month. She and Tori aim to create the most fun and interactive boards for their residents, which sometimes take up to eight hours to complete.

With every job comes at least one difficult task or disadvantage. For Gilmore, it is managing her time so that if an unexpected event does come up with a resident, she is able to handle

it right away. She also thinks that being strict at times is necessary, because even if you are the RA of your friends, you still have to make sure they follow the rules.

Gilmore’s experience over the past year has given her amazing friendships and great memories. For anyone that is interested in being an RA in the future, Gilmore said the most import-

ant thing is to be yourself during the interview process.

“Do not be afraid to apply if you are a commuter. They do take RA’s who have been commuters in the past,” Gilmore said. “Also, do not get discouraged if you apply and get alternate. I was originally given the alternate position and was expended an RA position early August.”



A creative bulletin board made by the RA’s of the Northpointe Residence Halls.

Photo Credit: Caitlin Gilmore

Bischoff’s: A Family with a Sweet Tooth

By Theresa King

It’s difficult to walk down the street and ignore the smell of warm fudge.

Following the sweet, thick scent down Cedar Lane leads to the front windows of Bischoff’s Ice Cream & Candy. Above the windows is the slogan, “Confections of distinction,” which is a seemingly simple message that holds true to the small ice cream shop with over a century of history.

At opening, the Bischoff’s employees are hard at work, with two in front of the all-mirror wall, preparing for the day. One employee with a bow-tie is making hot fudge. The scent of the fresh fudge fills the room. Directly parallel to the mirrored walls is a candy counter filled with different chocolates,

fudges and candies. The shelves behind it are packed with over 100 stuffed animals, featuring appearances by the Cookie Monster and Minnie Mouse.

Fixing up the tables in the back is Anita Mather, owner of Bischoff’s Ice Cream after inheriting the family business. Growing up on Elm Avenue, right off of Cedar Lane, she had always worked part-time at the shop growing up.

“My grandfather used to wheel me here in my baby carriage,” Mather said with a smile. “I was here all the time growing up.”

In fact, almost everyone in the Bischoff bloodline has worked at the store at one point, originating with Mather’s grandfather, Albert Bischoff.

Bischoff first opened the ice cream parlor in New York in 1890, later moving it to its current Teaneck

location in 1934 during the Great Depression. The shop started with only four flavors, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and peach.

Ralph Brunkhorst, Bischoff’s son-in-law and Mather’s father, took over the shop in 1947. In the mid 60’s, Mather became a secretary. However ,she returned to the store after her father lost several waitresses at the shop. In 1988, Mather finally took over the shop as her own.

Richard Zanetto, Mather’s longtime business partner, worked at the parlor as a teenager and has now been there over 40 years. After college, Zanetto came back to the shop.

After Mather retires, her son Steven, the fourth generation of the shop, will be taking over management. Steven Mather still lives in his mother’s childhood home on Elm Street.

But with so much history, how does Bischoff’s keep everything fresh?

“We’ve been here for 82 years and we try to keep it the same,” Mather said, “but now we have at least 40 flavors at all times. Everyone comes back for the ice cream. The old timers say it tastes better than ever.”

The shop freshly makes all flavors on premises, in addition to most of the toppings.

“We make everything here,” Mather said. “My son makes the hot fudge, Richie makes the marshmallow topping, and we make our own whipped cream.”

Mather is also proud of her homemade food, saying with a smile, “We have the best tuna salad!”

With the reopening of Teaneck Cinemas in 2013, the shop has seen an increase in customers, as people tend to come after the movies for a treat. However, money is still an issue for the ice cream parlor.

“The best times were in the 70’s and 80’s,” Mather said. “It’s still a struggle. There’s more taxes every year,



The sign outside Bischoff’s welcomes customers to the Cedar Lane staple.

Photo Credit: Google Images

and there’s more things to pay for.”

But to Mather, it’s worth it because of family. Customers who walk into Bischoff’s can feel the connection that the shop creates. Employees, both young and old, welcome the customers as part of their own family.

“[Family] is why I’m still here,” she said. “My son Steven will take over eventually. Generations have come and gone, both customers and workers. At one point, we had a family where seven of the members worked here.”

Customer Frances Kraekel, 87, enjoys her peach sundae with a smile. Kraekel came to Bischoff’s as a little girl and has returned regularly ever since.

“I remember eating ice cream at Bischoff’s,” Kraekel said. “I’m 87 now and even when I was small I thought it was the best. It was homemade and the peach [flavor] in season with fresh peaches was obviously memorable.”

The tradition of eating Bischoff’s ice cream is now being passed on to younger generations. Mather said that although not many high school or college students come to the shop, she still sees many families bringing their children in. She hopes that everyone will continue to love the shop as much as she did throughout her lifetime.

“It’s fun! Everybody is happy to come here,” she said. “It’s always a treat.”

—Student Lifestyle—

A Midsummer Night’s Dream



Faculty member Athos Varduniotis acts in the University Players’ production of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in the Russell Ratsch Theater.



(From left) Students Byanjana Thapa, Zachary Smith, and Claire Adams take the stage in the University Players’ production of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in the Russell Ratsch Theater.



Dean Tom Swanzey acts as the lion in Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” for the University Players’ production in the Russel Ratsch Theater.

All Photo Credit: Professor Luis Garcia

A Conversation with Dr. Ben Freer

By Chris Madden

Dr. Benjamin Freer is a familiar figure among veteran psychology majors. His good-natured, sunny personality has made subjects such as Experimental Psychology exciting and lively, yet still coupled with insightful information. As a researcher, mentor and teacher, Freer has guided many students on the path to success, from undergraduate Honors students to clinical PhDs in training.

A graduate of Valparaiso University and the University of Kentucky, Freer came to FDU in August 2011. He learned about FDU from a colleague and fellow doctoral student from New York.

“I really wanted to find a university that would allow me to do my research, but would also emphasize teaching undergraduates and doing research with undergraduates,” Freer said. “FDU matched what I was wanting, in the sense of a university that had a nice balance of teaching and research. It had a really a really diverse population, which was another factor

that I really like.”

A massive state university would not be ideal for Dr. Freer’s passion for teaching and research.

“Unfortunately in academics, there’s sometimes the mentality that the biggest school that will offer you a job is the school that you should go to,” Freer said. “I did not feel like that was a good fit for what I wanted out of my life.”

In the classroom, Freer’s teaching aptitude comes to the forefront. His amiable personality and research expertise have made classes on research methods and cognitive processes engaging.

“I love research,” Freer said. “I love teaching the Experimental Psychology course that’s all about understanding why research matters and how it matters. It’s a perfect fit for what I like to do.”

Helping people and working with others is certainly one of Freer’s main interests.

“I knew that I wanted to do something with people really early on,” Freer said. “I originally thought that I wanted to something in the helping



Dr. Freer has been teaching at Fairleigh Dickinson University since 2011 in the Psychology department.

Photo Provided.

profession. My mom was the school counselor at the elementary and high school that I went to. I can remember

as a very young child riding with my mom and her talking about the experiences that kids have and how they can influence their lives.”

While at college, Freer knew he wanted to work with children. After losing interest in the legal profession, he fell in love with research as an undergraduate and subsequently applied to doctoral programs specializing in research on childhood.

“To me, psychology is an amazing field that applies to every aspect of life,” Freer said. “An understanding of one’s self can really be developed by psychology courses, but also understanding of others.”

Next semester, Freer will be teaching one section of Experimental Psychology and a research seminar focusing on executive functioning, impulse control, working memory, attention, and risk taking. Students in the research seminar course will be able to get exposed to Freer’s own research interests, which involves individuals with ADHD and individuals who have experienced trauma.

“I’m excited about it,” Freer said. “It will be a really fun course.”

— Opinion —

Bergen Police Chief Steps Down After Racial Profiling

By Maya Page

Racial profiling and police injustice cases have been flooding the media more frequently over recent years. We hear about these cases all over the country, from Trayvon Martin to Tamir Rice.

On Mar. 22, Wyckoff Police Chief Benjamin Fox temporarily stepped down due to a leaked e-mail of him condoning racial profiling. NJ Attorney General has taken on the investigation after the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) got a hold of the e-mail and released it publicly.

“Profiling, racial or otherwise, has its place in law enforcement when used correctly and applied fairly,” Fox said in the email.

After blatantly telling his officers it is okay to racially profile, he goes on to say, “Black gang members from Teaneck commit burglaries in Wyckoff. That’s why we check out suspicious black people in white neighborhoods.”

It is outrageous that in this day and age we continue to face racial injustice. It is ignorant at this point to say that we live in a society that fully upholds justice and equality. Allowing authority figures to single out individuals based on race doesn’t help to keep

our communities safe but it is a segway to a police state.

MSNBC wrote an article headlining, “Why is there no punishment for racial profiling?” The answer was simple, according to the article, “Under Supreme Court precedent, race can be used as a factor in policing, providing that the authorities demonstrate it is relevant to specific law enforcement goals.”

As seen by this incident with Wyckoff police chief, this topic is not far from us. We are lucky enough to attend such a diverse university with students from all cultures and ethnicities. However, the issue of racial injustice in our own neighborhood is something that we should all be aware of as a community and as youth.

A survey was performed consisting of forty FDU students with a mix of all races and genders asking how big of an issue they feel racial profiling is and if they have ever been targeted because of their race by an authority figure.

Out of 40 students, 18 of them answered yes they have been a victim of racial or ethnic profiling and all of them rated the importance of the issue a 7 or higher on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest. Almost 50 percent of the surveyed students have experienced this injustice and 100 percent of



Benjamin Fox, Wyckoff Police Chief, recently resigned amid a racial profiling scandal.

Photo Credit: Google Images

them feel it is an important issue that needs to be addressed. That means that even those who have not been directly affected by the issue are still concerned and recognized that it is a problem.

There is a fine line between authority figures using their training and instincts and correctly applying their judgment to ensure the public’s safety

and blatantly using race as a motive to stop, search, or arrest any individual they please. No one should have to fear the people who are supposed to be protecting us, which is why it is so important to raise awareness and promote the officers who do work hard to keep corruption like this from the system.

Declawing is Not the Cat’s Meow

By Theresa King

Many cat owners have faced the issue of walking into their house and seeing their furniture scratched apart. Naturally, the solution seems to be to declaw the feline, an accepted procedure many pet owners enforce on their animals. But when considering whether or not to let your cat keep its claws, it is important to know the pros and cons of the surgery before making any rash decisions for our furry friends. Firstly, scratching is completely normal and healthy for all cats.

“It isn’t done to destroy a favorite chair or to get even,” advised The Humane Society of the United States. “Cats scratch to remove the dead husks from their claws, mark territory, and stretch their muscles.”

As for dealing with the feline’s claws, it is important to note that declawing is banned in many countries, including England, France, Germany, Spain and Australia, to name a few. Many of these countries state that the procedure should not be done unless it is medically necessary. The Humane Society of the United States opposes declawing, however the country has not outlawed it.

Declawing a cat is not simply just pulling out a nail. The claw is actually closely adhered to the bone. Therefore, to remove that claw, that last joint of the cat’s toes must be removed as well. To do this, an instrument with a sliding blade, similar to a guillotine, cuts a line through the joint. When that is done, right underneath that is the pad, which is cut in half as well. In simpler terms, it is similar to a human having the tip of their finger cut off.

“With cosmetic declawing, you use a tiny curved blade to go in and dissect out the claw and the tiny piece



Declawing is banned in many countries because the practice is believed to be inhumane.

Photo Credit: Theresa King

of bone,” said Drew Weigner, Atlanta veterinarian and past president of the Academy of Feline Medicine.

“The pad is intact; all the soft tissue is there. So the cat is walking comfortably very quickly because its pads are fine. When the pads are cut in half, the cat can’t walk on them without discomfort. That’s what cats put their weight on. And they can’t walk on

them comfortably for weeks. Most of the pain comes from the trauma to the soft tissue.”

The after effects of declawing are also important to keep in mind. The most used method of declawing, the “guillotine method,” has a recovery time of three weeks or longer, according to WebMD.

This being said, if a veterinar-

ian deems it necessary for the cat’s health to declaw it, such as if it has a tumor or infection, the option should definitely be considered. However, it should be looked at as a last resort. If a cat is declawed, it should not be allowed to roam outdoors.

“Letting your cats outside after they’ve been declawed would be cruel because they can’t defend themselves properly,” Weigner said. “Therefore, owners have to be committed to keep the cat indoors for the rest of its life or to find a family that can do so.”

There are a few alternatives that should be considered before making the decision to remove a cat’s claws.

As a kitten, scratching posts can be enforced. Kittens can be taught to use the post instead of scratching furniture or people. Trimming claws is also an option, however it is important not to over-trim or trim too frequently.

One reason cats scratch is to sharpen their claws for protection, therefore trimming the claws too frequently may only entice them to scratch and sharpen them more.

Also, one method that has come to light in recent years is the application of soft plastic caps to the cat’s claws. These are applied with surgical glue and need to be replaced about every six weeks.

But when facing the decision to declaw a cat, it is best to consult a veterinarian and discuss possible alternatives. Declawing should be avoided at all costs, as no animal should have to endure the pain that comes along with the procedure. With proper care, cat scratches and the destruction of furniture can be avoided with the health of our furry friends in mind.

— Opinion —

From the Desk of David Miles



David Miles, director of Public Safety

This past week has been a tough week for crime on college campuses in the United States.

In Texas, a college student was killed and her body was discovered after being reported missing by roommates in a creek on the campus.

Investigation determined that she was killed by a homeless individual.

In Louisiana, two female college students were shot and killed by gunfire and while they were not the intended targets, they did get caught in crossfire between two males.

At Rutgers in Newark, one student was shot and killed and another was wounded in an off campus apartment which may have been during a robbery.

What these three senseless

and tragic events show is that crime can happen anywhere and college and universities are no longer immune from these types of incidents.

In many of my columns, I stress the importance of following simple common sense crime prevention tips:

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Always walk in groups and on well lighted paths or use the on campus escort service.
- Do not prop open any exterior door. If you see the door open, remove the object preventing the door from closing.
- Do not loan your keys or leave them unattended in plain view.
- Do not keep large sums of money or

expensive jewelry in your room.

- Never leave items in plain view.
- Report all suspicious persons, vehicles and circumstances immediately.

While no one can guarantee your safety at all times, you can reduce the chance of being a victim of crime by remembering and following the tips.

Please remember to like the Department of Public Safety on Facebook at FDU Metro Department of Public Safety or follow us on Twitter @FDU-MetroPS.

If at any time you have any concerns or questions regarding any crime prevention information or general information on Public Safety, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Northpointe Lot Closed for Motorcycle Program

Beginning the weekend of March 12, 2016, the motorcycle program will be back in operation on the ranges in the North parking lot in front of Northpointe.

Between 5PM on Friday until 6PM on Sunday, parking is not permitted in the section of the North lot directly in front of Northpointe.

During this period, we are asking you to park behind Northpointe (section adjacent to Route 4) or on the north side of Northpointe (section closest to Psychology Building).

Any vehicle that is parked in the section in front of Northpointe will be subject to a fine and vehicle being relocated to another area of the lot by a

tow company.

We understand the inconvenience, but it is important that we have the area clear for the motorcycle program so they can start on-time on Saturdays and Sundays”.



Trump Not a Hit with the Ladies

By Armand Butera

Presidential candidate Donald Trump has as much respect for women as he does for any of his political opponents, which is to say none. But it’s safe to say the feeling is mutual, as a recent CNN poll on Mar. 24 stated that 73 percent of all female voters disapproved of the candidate.

While the Republican party hasn’t won the women’s vote since 1988 with George H. Bush, Trump’s words and actions aren’t doing the party any favors. The reality television star has recently taken low blows at other candidate’s wives, posting an unflattering image of Ted Cruz’s wife and even making rather perverse remarks of his own daughters.

But if that wasn’t enough to deter female voters, his most recent statement about illegal abortion has voters of both genders running for the hills. During an interview on MSNBC, Trump stated “there has to be some



One of Donald Trump’s most famous enemies, Fox News’ Megyn Kelly.

form of punishment” towards women who have illegal abortions. Quickly backing away from those comments mere days after saying them, there was nothing to stop the backlash he received.

But backlash is not a foreign

Photo Credit: Google Images

concept to Trump. At this point in his campaign you could throw a rock and hit someone who has been offended by Trump’s words or actions.

Many have expressed their distaste for the candidate, and Trump has said more than enough to offend

female voters. It is apparent that he has no respect for women and objectifies those he has roped into his life. There’s a certain cadence in his voice when addressing women on air, one that seems to show, aside from his words, that he feels superior. There have been multiple cases of harassment between Trump and his campaign staffers and there comes a time when it must be questioned when enough will really be enough.

It’s difficult to not be frustrated by what has occurred over the past few months, even more so when Trump adds fuel to the fire on a daily basis. However it’s important to note that an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind and it only helps us reach new lows. The real reply from women everywhere will be in the voting booths and the polls, which continuously report his lack of support from female voters.

Actions speak louder than words.

Congratulations Graduates!



All Photo Credit: Google Images

Corrections

In Issue 12 published on April 14, the “Search for Next University Provost,” article should have had the following spellings for these countries: Guatemala not Guatimela, Thailand not Tayland and Taiwan not Taywan.

— Student Lifestyle —

Mel's Meanderings



Perez at an outdoor BBQ.

By Melanie Perez

(WROXTON, ENGLAND) – I can't believe that this is my last column at Wroxton.

I'm nearing the end of my fourth month. The rush of finals surrounds me just as much as the rush of emotions about leaving England.

"The Wroxton Experience" really should be the standard of college life. I've never worked harder to earn my grades than I have this semester. The coursework was vigorous and I was constantly challenged in discussions, but I learned. The tutorial system here really works. The two hours of class every week and the additional one-hour tutorial every other week really helped to reinforce the material.

The twice-daily teatime and extensive abbey grounds gave a sense of genuine English life. I learned that the English are fascinated with their own history and hold on to their traditions. Just because they speak English, doesn't mean that we are the same.

This semester, I've taken two new subway systems, been to four new countries, tried over five new dishes,

visited over 10 popular cities, shopped in at least 40 new stores, gotten to know over 50 new people, and probably spent over 100 hours studying and doing homework.

In being submerged in a foreign culture for four months, I've learned a lot about how the world is outside of the United States. Most importantly, I've learned a lot about myself.

I was born with wanderlust pumping through my veins and have taken every opportunity I've been offered to travel. But the funny thing about travel is that it almost always comes with the innate sense of humankind as an inferior force. There were so many beautiful sights to see and so many wonderful things to experience, yet they all would have still been there

even if I wasn't.

Time and nature go on without consideration of humanity, and that fact is largely eye opening. While this fact might not seem important to some, I was profoundly affected by it this semester.

Clichés aside, I've found a part of myself at Wroxton that I didn't know was there. I found the part of me that doesn't care if people don't like me because I don't drink. I found the part of me that takes pride in my sensibility in getting work done early. I found the part of me that realized that the grass could be just as green in the US if I only took the time to water it.

When I came to Wroxton, I knew a little about what to expect while here, but was met with many surprises. I understood why so many



The Edinburgh Castle.

students recommended the semester in Wroxton because of all the trips, but I couldn't fathom why none of the students would warn us about how hard the classes were beyond saying "the load is rigorous."

I realize now, four months later, that the rigor of the courses isn't typically warned away because it spurs internal growth. I'm convinced that all of us, when we leave, will return home more mature than we were when we had left. All I can say is that the effect of the course load is secretive and individual. It's like going to see an oracle but not being able to tell anybody what happened. You'll just have to wait and see for yourself.

"The Wroxton Experience" is an excellent way to put yourself out there. It gives you a stamp in your passport, global exposure, and an experience that you will never forget. If you can go, you should. There are no guarantees in life (besides taxes), but I know you won't regret it. I know I sure don't.



The view from the Wroxton Abbey.

All Photo Credit: Melanie Perez

Recipe of the Week

Recipe Provided by BuzzFeed

15 Minute No-Bake Oreo Bars

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:
1 package Oreos
1 package large marshmallows
4 tablespoons butter or margarine

Directions:

1. Line 8×8-inch baking pan with aluminum foil.
2. Put Oreos into a large Ziploc bag.
3. Crush Oreos until no large pieces remain.
4. Melt butter and marshmallows in a large microwaveable bowl for about 2 minutes, until marshmallows fluff up and butter melts.
5. Add crushed Oreos immediately and mix until combined.
6. Press mixture into lined pan.
7. Cool bars for 10 minutes until set.
8. Cut into nine large bars.



Delicious no-bake Oreo bars.

Photo Credit: Kendra Valkema

— Entertainment —

Walking Dead Drops a Cliffhanger

By Dustin Niles

The sixth season of *The Walking Dead* came to a shocking close three Sundays ago, and has generated a storm of discussion.

The episode began with the group trying to move the increasingly sick and expecting Maggie to a doctor in a nearby community called Hilltop. But at every turn in their RV, they are confronted by an enemy group known as The Saviors. Every route the group tries to take to Hilltop, they are met by more Saviors. Outnumbered and out-equipped, the group is forced to turn back.

Meanwhile, Morgan has found Carol, who ran away from the group to avoid having to kill other people. Morgan tries to convince Carol to return to



New villain Negan joins the cast of *The Walking Dead's* sixth season.

Photo Credit: Google Images

the group and try his peaceful, pacifist ways.

Back in the RV, the group led by Rick is running out of options. The RV only has so much gas, and the Saviors are stopping them, waiting for the

RV to die. Rick's group hatches a plan to take Maggie on foot and have Eugene run the RV as a decoy.

However, the plan doesn't work and the group finds themselves surrounded in the woods by hundreds

of Saviors. The leader of the Saviors, Negan, lines them up and the episode ends with Negan beating one of the main characters to death, and we're left to wonder exactly who it was.

This episode's cliffhanger was especially gripping. This group of main characters has been fairly stable and Alexandria, their home community, has been relatively safe for a while. Each character has become integral to the show in his or her own way. It's now almost unimaginable to think of the show without any of them.

As is natural, some rumors are floating around. According to inquisitr.com, Glenn is the one character to die as the story goes in the comic series. However, the show has been known to deviate from the comic books in the past. Regardless, the show's fans will just have to wait until October to find the answer.

‘Hamilton’ Makes American History Sing

By Molly Holt

The world of Broadway has been forever changed. Lin Manuel Miranda, creator of the hit musical *In the Heights*, has a new musical. His latest production, *Hamilton*, is far from the traditional Broadway offering.

Hamilton tells the story of one of America's important founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton. But there is an interesting twist. Miranda, a man of Puerto Rican descent, plays Hamilton. The show prides itself on telling the story of a very white American history with a cast that showcases what Americans look like today.

"Our cast looks like America looks now, and that's certainly intentional," Miranda told the New York Times in an interview. "It's a way of pulling you into the story and allowing you to leave whatever cultural baggage you have about the founding fathers at the door."

On top of breaking down the racial barriers of American history and



Lin Manuel Miranda's new musical, *Hamilton*, has taken Broadway by storm.

Photo Credit: Molly Holt

promoting non-traditional casting, Miranda has once again changed the soundtrack of Broadway. *Hamilton*, like *In the Heights*, features a hip-hop/rap soundtrack. This drew an entirely new group of people into the theater community.

A financial success, *Hamilton* made \$32 million in advanced ticket sales. The show has been sold out since it moved to Broadway and will be sold out until September. Second hand tick-

ets are being sold on StubHub ranging from \$530 to over \$2,000 each. The only way to get tickets first hand, as of now, is through the *Hamilton* lottery. This is an online lottery that goes on for every show. Twenty-one tickets are available to the winners of the lottery for \$10 each. But even considering the lottery, tickets are nearly impossible to get.

Despite the lack of tickets available, the show's fans cannot be

Lawyer Up!



Bob Odenkirk returns as seedy attorney James McGill aka Saul Goodman in AMC's spinoff of *Breaking Bad*.

Photo Credit: Google Images

room of his brother's law firm to becoming an attorney through distance learning at the University of American Samoa, Jimmy quickly lands himself in hot water.

He's held up at gunpoint by the bombastic Tuco Salamanca, takes large bribes from a couple who embezzled over \$1 million, and imitates the

logo of law firm Hamlin, Hamlin, & McGill to promote his own business.

The casting for *Better Call Saul* is impeccable. Odenkirk is a tour de force as Jimmy McGill, whose legal transgressions and unethical behavior and methods make him the most seedy and yet most loveable characters in re-

cent television history. From brilliant one-liners to snarky comments, Odenkirk perfectly portrays McGill's quirky character.

New cast members Michael McKean, Rhea Seehorn, and Patrick Fabian join Odenkirk on screen. McKean does an exceptional job as Jimmy's older brother Charles "Chuck" McGill, a brilliant and successful partner at HHM, who had to retire due to a psychosomatic illness. Rhea Seehorn captures the attention of viewers with her good looks as Kim Wexler, Jimmy's close friend and romantic interest. Patrick Fabian skillfully portrays Howard Hamlin, an egotistical and empty suit who serves as an antagonist for Jimmy.

Better Call Saul is sure to please fans of *Breaking Bad*, with plenty of tension, drama, and wisecracking courtesy of Jimmy McGill. The lawyer that everyone loves to hate is back in all his seedy, unethical glory.

Sports

Brown Bowls Her Way onto TV

By Rebecca Fischer

(TEANECK) – Junior women’s bowler, Morgan Brown, has made it to the semifinals at the United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Singles Championships and will have her chance to compete for a national title on CBS Sports Network on Tuesday, May 10 at 9 p.m., representing FDU.

It was a long route for Brown to get to this point. Early in March, she competed against 135 women collegiate bowlers at a sectional tournament and came in first place after the six games, qualifying her for the Intercollegiate Singles Championships in Wichita, KS.

“It was an awesome feeling winning my sectional,” Brown said. “At that point, I was just really excited for the opportunity to move on and compete against more of the best girls in the nation.”

At the Championships on April 19, Brown proved she belonged with the best. After eight games of qualify-



Brown’s run for the title will air on May 10 at 9 p.m. on CBS Sports Network

Photo Credit: Larry Levanti

ing, she found herself in fourth place out of 16 girls, which scored her a two-round bye in match play.

“I knew going in I needed to bowl my butt off to advance,” she said.

“I kept telling myself throughout qualifying just to stay calm and try to have fun. And I did all of those things.”

In order to make it to the televised semifinals, Brown had to win her

first match in match play. And with all nerves aside, she crushed Jacqueline Evans of Lawrence Tech in a three game total pin-fall match, 705-544.

Now as a semifinalist, Brown is one of four girls left competing for the national title. She will face Stephanie Schwartz of Stephen F. Austin, the NTCA 2016 National Player of the Year, in her first televised match. If she wins, she will move on to the finals against either Emily Eckhoff of Hastings College or Tawni Vollmer of Weber International.

“I’m a bit nervous,” Brown said about bowling on TV. “But I feel like if I just keep the same mindset, I will be fine.”

FDU has never had a bowler make it to the Intercollegiate Singles Championships before.

“Making it to nationals was an accomplishment in itself,” Brown said. “It’s been an unbelievable experience so far and I’m so excited to compete for a national title. It’s something I’ve always dreamed about being able to do.”

Baseball Challenged in Conference Series

By Jeremy Gaitan

(TEANECK) – With an 18-18 record, the Knights took on a conference rival, the Sacred Heart Pioneers, in a four game series on April 22, 23, and 24 at the Naimoli Family Baseball Complex.

Senior Dylan Sprague started the first game of the series off with a homerun, followed by an RBI single from sophomore Bobby Romano, and a three run blast from senior Joel Roman to give the Knights an early 5-0 lead.

In the bottom of the third inning, after the Pioneers scored two, Roman took the plate again and hit another two run bomber, putting the Knights up 7-2. But, the game flipped in the top of the eighth when redshirt junior Ryan Brennan relieved freshman pitcher Tim Quinn. The Pioneers started their comeback, scoring five runs off Brennan and eventually sealing the deal with an 8-7 win over the Knights.

The second game of the series started off with the Pioneers scoring three runs. In the bottom of the fifth, with the Knights trailing 4-2, senior John Giakas blasted a two run shot to tie the game. Then in the bottom of the sixth, redshirt senior Shane Siebler singled in freshman Evan McDonald to take the lead. But the Knights’ hopes of a victory were dashed again in the seventh inning when junior pitcher Danny Demetrops gave up two run homerun to the Pioneers. The Knights were unable to come back and they fell 6-5.

The Pioneers had complete control in the third game of the series, winning the game 3-0 and limiting the Knights to only three hits.

In the final game of the series, the Knights took the lead on a two run blast from Giakas in the bottom of the first. The Pioneers tied it up by the second inning, but the Knights took the lead back on a homer by Sprague. Later in the game, with the Knights up 4-2, Giakas dominated the plate again, hitting his second home-run of the game

and ninth of the season.

“Every time I go up, I get aggressive early in the count,” Giakas said. “The first one was a fastball; it hit the middle of the bat, I accelerated through it and it took off from there. The second one was just a good at bat. The count was 3-2, I saw my pitch and took a good swing at it.”

The mood of the game changed as the Pioneers scored three runs to tie the game. The game stayed tied until the bottom of the tenth when, with one out and a man on second, Roman hit a shot over the right field wall to win the game for the Knights, 7-5.

Head coach Gary Puccio was happy with the win, but not with the series overall, as the Knights came up short twice.

“We led three of the four games going into the last inning and we could have easily won three games,” Puccio said. “It’s hard to swallow. Today when they tied the game in the last inning, I said ‘here we go again,’ but this time we found a way to win.”



Head coach of the baseball team, Gary Puccio, hit his 100th win in a record-breaking game against Cop-pin State on April 13.

Photo Credit: Larry Levanti

Maddie Lerma: Beyond Softball

By Frank Pellino

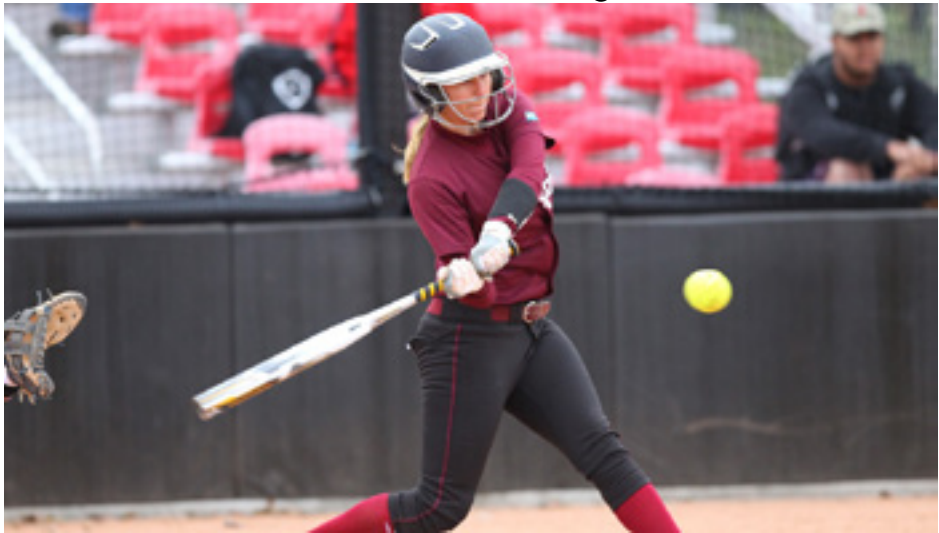
FDU’s very own Maddie Lerma came all the way from San Diego, California to FDU for a few reasons including softball.

“I got a big scholarship, so that was the main reason,” Lerma said. “But I also liked that it was across the country and I was going to be able to experience all the seasons.”

Though she now has a love and hate relationship with winter, her favorite thing about FDU is the diversity and culture surrounding the area.

Lerma is a junior center fielder and pitcher. Last season she nearly broke the University’s home run record. She finished the season with a total of eight, just one shy of tying the record at nine. Lerma was also a part of the first team in school history to make the NEC Championship tournament.

Lerma’s daily schedule is one that will make anybody’s head spin.



Lerma collected 8 home runs last season, nearly tying the school record.

Photo Credit: Larry Levanti

“We have to wake up between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m. and practice from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. Then class, conditioning and weight lifting for two hours, then class again,” she said. “And during all of that I have to find time to fit three meals in, as well.”

She summed up her time so far

at FDU as “rewarding.”

“The best part about being a student-athlete is all the relationships and friendships you build,” Lerma said. “Not just with teammates, but with the other teams and the athletic staff, too. It’s like one big family.”

Lerma made no confusion

about it; she loves playing softball at FDU and she always wants to play, even after graduation. That’s one of her many goals for when her time at FDU ends.

Lerma hits the books about as hard as she hits the softballs; she maintains a 3.7 GPA and is a member of the Communications Honor Society. She has her sights set on a career in advertising and marketing, which is another reason she chose FDU, for its close proximity to New York City and its many opportunities.

Her hobbies are similar to those of many other college students. “I love to sleep and I’m a Netflix junky,” Lerma said. “I love working out and I love running. Running really clears my head, so I do it for fun.”

Coming from across the country to experience the east coast, Lerma enjoys traveling. One thing she is looking forward to doing after graduation is backpacking through Europe with her best friend Rachel from back home.