Inside this week’s issue:

- The budget’s vexations
- Student Symposium
- VisCom’s furry officemates
- Theater Interview, Part 2

A friendly reminder: File your taxes by Monday, April 18!
Luncheon with Aziz Mekouar

LEXIE ZAAS
CO-NEWS EDITOR
zaasac@lakeforest.edu

On Monday April 11th, sixteen students, primarily majoring in International Relations, attended a luncheon with the Ambassador to Morocco, Aziz Mekouar. The National Strategy Forum of Chicago and The Chicago Casablanca Sisters committee hosted this event. The title of the talk was “Stability in North Africa and the Middle East Region.” The event took place at the Union League of Chicago at noon.

The Ambassador assured that Morocco is a stable country in the troubled North Africa and Middle East region. With the recent regime changes in the Middle East/North Africa, the ambassador’s thoughts on these current events and the relationship of Morocco and other countries in the region to the U.S. were illuminated. He assured that Morocco and the United States have a fine working relationship. The event consisted of his speech as well as a Q&A forum. He believes that things will start to improve very quickly between other countries in the African and Middle Eastern area. “Young people are truly the future of this world, that is why I am glad to see this many young people sitting in this room today” Mekouar declared.

During the Q&A session there was time for four questions. One of the questions asked is if the recent issues will effect the trade of ore and oil. The boys doing their opening dance.

Kappa Alpha Theta hosts another successful Mr. CASAnova

ANNALISE PARKS
CONTRIBUTOR
parksal@lakeforest.edu

On April 1, 2011, the women of Kappa Alpha Theta hosted their annual philanthropic event, Mr. CASAnova, in the Gus and Margie Hart Dining Hall. The theme of this year’s male beauty pageant was “Masquerades”, so the contestants stripped off their clothes (while some stripped off their masks). The theme turned the corner to the sake of a good cause. Theta’s philanthropy partner is CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. This organization works towards insuring the safety and well being of children who have been removed from their homes due to parental abuse or neglect. The event is widely known to be one of the most highly attended events on campus, and this year’s show was no different as students waited in a line to see Mr. Off-Campus J.P. Ledgwide’s Borat-inspired choice for swimwear, Mr. Relay for Life Chris Way’s rendition of Lady Gaga’s hit song “Bad Romance”, an appearance from Ms. Illinois, and of course, the fact that Kappa Alpha Theta raised $1000 for CASA in one night!

The 2011 CASAnova winner, Mr. Football Dominick Campagna ’13, stated “it was a great experience working with the Theta girls and guys from other organizations on campus during practice and preparing for the event because it all paid off to benefit a great cause”.

Correction: Last week’s article, “Improv at Student Symposium: one of the new additions to the event” was titled incorrectly by the editors. The article should have been titled “Improv at Student Symposium: One of the new additions to the event.” We apologize for the error.
LILLIAN DYPOLD
STAFF WRITER
dypoln@lakeforest.edu

As a part of the V-Day movement and the Students for Women’s Awareness Network annual programming, The Vagina Monologues were performed on April 9th and 10th in McCormick Auditorium. Although each performance lasted under two hours, it was the product of months of work on the part of many Lake Forest College students and is a part of an international movement seeking to end violence against women and girls. Tickets were sold in advanced, as well as at the door—$5 for LFC Affiliates and $10 for all others. All proceeds were donated to the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, a local non-profit.

The Vagina Monologues were written in 1994 by Eve Ensler, a now-famous activist and founder of V-Day. Since then the monologues have gone through many revisions, with new monologues being added and old ones being taken out with each passing year. A series of interviews on sexuality and social stigma gave birth to the monologues. An excerpt from the script explains this well. “So, I decided to talk to women about their vaginas. They began as casual vagina interviews, and they turned into vagina monologues. I talked with over 200 women, I talked to younger women, older women, married women, lesbians, single women. I talked to college professors, corporate professionals, actors, sex workers. I talked to African American women, Asian American women, Hispanic women, Native-American women, Caucasian women, Jewish women. At first, women were a little shy, a little reluctant to talk. But once they got going, you couldn’t stop them. Women love to talk about their vaginas, they do.” Since the founding of V-Day and the first benefit performances of the monologues, V-Day has produced several other pieces, which are performed annually. Additionally, V-Day “stages large-scale benefits and produces LFC’s Vagina Monologues, described this variety and explained her efforts (in conjunction with SWAN President Mary Ashley Federer) to intersperse the funny with the serious. “Over the course of the show, there are some pretty extreme themes to deal with, such meeting Mary Ashley and I assigned monologues that included almost everyone who wanted to be a part of this project. We also did our best to assign everyone the monologue of their choice.” On the directing, Breen said, “directing was a fantastic vehicle through which to tell another woman’s story.”

Audience member’s attentions were held captive by the stories of these women, conveyed beautifully by the cast. The auditorium erupted in laughter as Dani Gonzalez shouted about her angry vagina, and they joined in with Hannah Breen as she reclaimed “v*$.t.” However, other more serious monologues transported the audience to scenes of rape and sexual slavery. The powerful text was not lost on the audience. One student remarked that he was disgusted that we live in a society that creates men who would perform such heinous acts. Even the monologues that were not about textbook sexual violence and abuse left the audience with deep feeling for the women whose stories were being told. Another student expressed her sadness for Hanna Morrison’s character that had closed her “down there’s” for business after a traumatizing teenage experience: “The Flood.” In directing “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vagina’s Happy,” in which Margo Wallace starred, Breen made an interesting directorial choice, choosing to include six women in this monologue, which was originally written for one. When asked about this, she explained her choice saying, “we used six girls because we thought it was a fun idea that would get people laughing and allow the girls to participate more in the show. Aesthetically, it is pretty cool to see the women draped all over the stage.”

SWAN hopes to make The Vagina Monologues an annual event. To conclude, an audience favorite, “A Happy Vagina Fact...The clitoris is pure in purpose. It is the only organ in the body designed purely for pleasure. The clitoris is simply a bundle of nerves: 8,000 nerve fibers to be precise. That’s a higher concentration of nerve fibers than is found anywhere else in the body, including the fingertips, lips, and tongue, and it is twice the number in the penis. Who needs a handgun when you’ve got a semi-automatic?” The event raised $420 for the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

Playbill
V-Day Organizer- Mary Ashley Federer
Director- Hannah Breen
Head or PR- Niharika Jain
Technical Director- Emily Thomas
Introduction- Alex Waszak,
Latoi Bennet, Simone Perry
Hair- Amanda Allred
Lists- Alexandra Waszak,
Latoi Bennet, Mary Ashley Federer
The Flood- Hanna Morrison
The Vagina Workshop- Maya Beckles
Vagina Happy Fact- Courtney King
The Best the Girl Out Of My Boy... or So They Tried: Sam Sekulich, Tishna Lodi. LeeAnn Harris, Mary Ashley Federer, Hannah Breen Because He Liked to Look at It: Julia Mikula
Not-So-Happy Vagina Fact- Courtney King
Say It: Lindsey Harris
My Angry Vagina- Danielle Gonzalez
My Vagina Was My Village: Katie Howson
The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could- Courtney King
Crooked Braids- Lizi Medina
Reclaiming C**t: Hannah Breen
A Six Year Old Girl Was Asked- Mary Ashley Federer
The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy- Margo Wallace
I Was There in the Room- Lana Pantich
Myriam- Simone Perry

Students for Women's Awareness Network (SWAN) present The Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues contains many stories from various perspectives on female existence.

Photo courtesy of Niharika Jain.
Lexie Zaas
News Editor
zaasac@lakeforest.edu

Audrey Patterson
Staff Writer
pattean@lakeforest.edu

The fourteenth annual Lake Forest College student symposium was held Tuesday. This annual event allows students to take advantage of the opportunity and attend different presentations. Some classes are even required to attend a presentation or two. Classes are cancelled in order for students to be able to support their fellow students by watching them unveil their research. The symposium began Monday, April 4th, with the Collage reading and reception as well as a student art exhibit with Gallery Talks and a reception. The Collage reading and reception took place in Durrand Art Institute and gave students taking a foreign language a chance to read what they have been working on. The presentations took place in multiple venues, including the Donnelley and Lee library, Meyer auditorium, Johnson and the Mohr Student Center. Each individual presentation is scheduled to be twenty minutes long, fifteen minutes to give a presentations and five minutes for questions. Each panel has a moderator to open, close and introduce the presenters in each section. There were also a few breaks in between the presentations, which include an Aikido presentation and root beer floats. Students and faculty present research, showcase their clubs, and present class projects. Such projects have included: biology class projects, psychology research topics, a theater performance, and historical and political presentations. Senior thesis students also present their research and many of them rejoiced upon the completion of their presentations.

The amazing part of Student Symposium is the broad subject matter of the presentations. The day is full of exciting new educational discoveries and should broaden the horizons of students and faculty alike. Presentations ranged from Games, Music, Behavior, and Science presentations to an Improv show. There is always a wide array of presentations to choose from. Many students spend a semester or even a year preparing for this event, and their efforts show. Students might not be in the classroom learning on Symposium day, but if they take advantage of this opportunity they will learn a lot from listening to their peers.

Students examine the poster projects in Calvin Durrand lounge.

Photo courtesy of lakeforest.edu

The 14th annual Student Symposium: The Lake Forest tradition lives on

Lexie Zaas
News Editor
zaasac@lakeforest.edu

Audrey Patterson
Staff Writer
pattean@lakeforest.edu

Lake Forest College Stentor
April 14, 2011

Campus Watch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time Reported</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/6/2011 10:22:18 PM</td>
<td>Student Center Commons</td>
<td>Suspicious Activity</td>
<td>Malicious Mischief</td>
<td>Cleared With SVC Rendered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9/2011 10:22:18 PM</td>
<td>Student Center Commons</td>
<td>Liquor Law Violation</td>
<td>Multiple Violations</td>
<td>Cleared W/Notification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students will be able to keep their lakeforest.edu email address for as long as they wish after they graduate.

Soon after Commencement, all email sent to students will go to a Live@edu server hosted off campus. LIT will take care of forwarding and redirecting, so students will still be able to click on links to webmail.lakeforest.edu and will be automatically directed to the new site.

There will be two options for moving email that is currently stored on our local email server to the new Live@edu server. Students can transfer their email themselves following some simple directions or the email will be moved by request by LIT. Student accounts on the locally hosted server will be removed sometime in the middle of the fall of 2011. LIT will be reminding students of this throughout the summer and early fall.

We’ve shared our plans widely. We have had LIT student employees test out Live@edu and share their feedback with us.

JAMES CUBIT
DIRECTOR OF LIT
cubit@lakeforest.edu

Over the summer LIT plans to move student email “to the cloud” using Microsoft’s Live@edu. This means that student email will no longer be hosted locally on a server on campus, but will be hosted on servers belonging to Microsoft. Faculty and staff email will continue to be hosted locally.

LIT has been looking at the option of outsourcing the hosting of email for several years. In making this move, Lake Forest College joins hundreds of other colleges and universities who have also chosen to outsource email.

Why Live@edu?

Since faculty and staff email will continue to be hosted locally for the time being, and our email runs on Exchange, which is also a Microsoft product, integrating student email with faculty and staff email will be much more seamless and less confusing to all if both are running on Microsoft products.

Live@edu will provide students with free collaboration software (called Office 365) that includes basic versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint that will enable students to share and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.

These applications are very basic versions of the same Microsoft Office products used on campus and will allow for light editing. The collaborative nature of the Office 365 applications works like it does now. The main difference will be the additional access to the Office 365 collaboration software. Students will be able to keep their lakeforest.edu email address for as long as they wish after they graduate.

Why Live@edu instead of Google Apps for Education?

Integration with our existing Exchange environment for faculty and staff would have been much more complicated and potentially confusing for end users if we moved students to Google Apps for Education. Many of our administrative offices make sophisticated use of the Exchange calendar and scheduling features. Moving faculty and staff to another email system and requiring them learn how to use it really wasn’t feasible at this time.

The Office 365 application suite that is now offered with Live@edu means that Microsoft offers the same opportunities for collaboration as Google Apps for Education. Since our campus is primarily a Microsoft Office campus, it made sense to go that route.

Google Apps for Education is not compliant with current accessibility standards. The National Federation of the Blind has recently asked the Department of Justice to take action against New York University and Northwestern University for adopting Google Apps for Education. The accommodation must come from Google, and we do not believe it is practical to wait for this to happen.

Live@edu complies with accessibility standards.

When will this happen?

Soon after Commencement, all email sent to students will go to a Live@edu server hosted off campus. LIT will take care of forwarding and redirecting, so students will still be able to click on links to webmail.lakeforest.edu and will be automatically directed to the new site.

We have had LIT student employees test out Live@edu and share their feedback with us.

NELSON IGUNMA
CO-NEWS EDITOR
igumno@lakeforest.edu

The Stentor: When is LIT expecting to move faculty and staff email accounts “to the cloud” and give them Live@edu addresses?

Cubit: We have been considering this for at least 3 years. Many of our peer institutions have already made this move and have done so successfully. So there are a lot of success stories out there (and I haven’t heard of a single institution that made the move “to the cloud” who regretted it). We are also at a point where we were going to have to invest in additional hardware for storage for email if we continue to host faculty, and staff), essentially endorsed the idea 3 years ago when it was first discussed with them. When I presented the idea to the LIT Advisory Committee in the fall of 2009, I was asked why we hadn’t already done it.

Stentor: What steps were taken leading up to this decision being announced? What needs to happen in order to ensure a smooth transition to Live@edu?

Cubit: We talked with colleagues at other institutions who have made the move to Live@edu so we could learn from their experiences. We have also been in frequent communication with representatives from Microsoft who will continue to work closely with us throughout the project. For example, just today (Tuesday) we had a 90-minute conference call with a Microsoft project manager who helped us make some decisions that will help the transition go as smoothly as possible.

Stentor: How long has this change in services been discussed? What ultimately pushed the College to pursue this option?

Cubit: We’ve shared our plans widely. We have had LIT student employees test out Live@edu and share their feedback with us. Plans were discussed this spring with the College Life Committee and with Student Government. The LIT Advisory Committee (which, as you know has representation from students,

MICHAEL SCIORTINO
CONTRIBUTOR
sciornis@lakeforest.edu

This article will be broken down into two sections; Computer Care and Safe Browsing. When it comes to caring for a computer, treat it as you would treat yourself; don’t fill it with unnecessary crap, and clean it every once in a while. Both of those goals are surprisingly easy to adhere to. The latter task is a bit longer but just as easy to do.

1. Don’t click ads

When people browse websites, they often see shiny and eye-catching advertisements. These ads are meant to attract attention and generate revenue for a website. Some malicious websites will take that same eye catching principle and show an ad that seems too good to be true. A gullible user will click. That click on the ad can do any number of things from generating revenue to installing a piece of spyware. Spyware is like a virus in that it slows down your computer and is malicious. As its name implies, it spies on a user and can report back data to the author of the spyware. If you accumulate enough spyware, your computer will slow to a crawl and programs may stop working if they do not have the resources to work with.

2. If a website looks sketchy, it is.

If a link comes up with the name “freetextbooks.com” it is 9 times out of 10 a malicious site and too good to be true. The website is named in order to attract users who do not know any better. When using Google to find websites, be cautious of their names and the URL’s. If you are on a website that looks sketchy just leave the website.

3. Shortened links are not fun.

If you are browsing Facebook and someone sends you a link that seems really short be wary of clicking it. A website like Tiny URL takes a long link and shortens it to about 25 or so characters. One such Facebook scam is a wall post that says “I almost cried when I saw this! www-book.com access to your real Facebook account by recording all the logins that go through that website.

If you are in a public place look at the box under where you login in on facebook.com make sure it does not say “Remember me”. If you walk away from the computer without clicking log out the next person to browse Facebook will see your profile still logged in.

4. No website will ask you for your password in an email.

If someone sends you an e-mail claiming to be a Facebook administrator and they need your password, do not give this to them. If an administrator has to look into your account, they will not need your password to do so.

5. Browser choice

As much as this may cause pain to some people to read, browsers have gotten better over the years. In recent times the old stigmas that followed old browsers for instance “IE is a horrible browser and no technological person would EVER use it” is gone.

There are five main browsers out there in the world. Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Opera, and all of these browsers play to their own strengths. Choosing whether or not to use one browser over another comes down to personal appeal.

7. Antivirus/Anti mal-ware.

There are many options to pick from when it comes to antivirus software. A few of the big names are Norton, Kaspersky, AVG, and MacAfee, which LFC uses. You do not need to drop large sums of money into antivirus software; Microsoft makes a free antivirus called Microsoft Security Essentials. In comparison to the big names in the industry, MSE takes up a small amount of your computer resources and it gets the job done quickly and effectively. The other software is not bad per se. It is just bloated and expensive.

In terms of anti-mal-ware, there is free software called Malware Bytes Anti Malware. It does a great job at what it does in terms of protection and has stopped numerous pieces of spyware. Don’t shop for protection with a price in mind, shop instead with a goal; the prices you may find are surprising.

8. Use Google

The majority of problems that users come across in daily life can be solved by using Google. Just type in a few keywords. For instance, if you have a virus “Virus Removal” will take you to what you’re looking for. If all else fails, just type your question into Google.

M E A N W H I L E…

Sucker Punch delivers knockout, despite poor critical reception

FREYDY VASQUEZ
STAFF WRITER
vasqvf@lakeforest.edu

With spring upon us, the film industry is beginning with its pre-summer lineup of movies. In the months leading up to summer, there are those hit and miss movies, but Sucker Punch stands out as a true knock out. The film begins with the main character, Baby Doll (Emily Browning), on her way to the Lennox Mental Institution. She has been institutionalized by her stepfather, who claims that Baby Doll murdered her sister.

The movie only gets stranger from there, with the initial façade fading to reveal a brothel led by Blue (Oscar Isaac). With Madame Gorski (Carla Gugino) as their mentor, Baby Doll, and fellow inmates Rocket (Jena Malone), Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens), Sweet Pea (Abbie Cornish), and Amber (Jamie Chung) must all work together to find the five items needed and find freedom before the High Roller arrives to lobotomize Baby Doll.

While initial reviews of the movie have been less than favorable, moviegoers have agreed that Sucker Punch is a true achievement. Director Zack Snyder (300, Watchmen) has created a multiple fantasy world full of samurais, dragons, robots, and steam-powered German soldiers. Each world is unique in what it has and what the girls have to do to get the necessary item.

The characters are also unique and have some very powerful lines in a movie that otherwise has a lot of action. By the end of the movie, the audience is left wondering whose story this really was and that is where the title comes into play – in an ending that is truly satisfying.

The soundtrack to Sucker Punch is one of the best I have heard in a while. While it is a shame that the soundtrack is on the short side, the tracks are superb. They are not original songs but rather covers of previous songs such as “White Rabbit”, “Where Is My Mind”, and even a mash up of “I Want It All” and “We Will Rock You”. Each song accompanies one of the “worlds” the girls enter and it blends in well with each specific scene.

Overall, the best advice to give is not to listen to mainstream reviews on this one. The movie is definitely worth seeing and only a true moviegoer can appreciate how great this movie is. Granted, some plot elements could have explained the movie better, but the fact remains that this movie should not be missed over something as minimal as small plot holes. It is a fun time and a good way to get conversation started about whether the movie is a commentary on the way people use their minds to escape from harsh realities, or if it is just a misogynistic film about girls in suggestive outfits slicing and dicing for no apparent reason. The interpretation is completely up in the air, but the agreement is that the movie is worthwhile.

Rating: 9/10
PUPPY PROFILE:
The Visual Communications canine trio

MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ  
STAFF WRITER  
gonzam@lakeforest.edu

Puppy Profile:
The Visual Communications canine trio

If you have not already noticed, pay attention the next time you find yourself passing the vicinity of the Visual Communications building, the little white house behind Young Hall; the one you can see through the windows of the caf, library, and Johnson buildings. It’s in a convenient location on Middle Campus, which houses our campus print shop.

On any given day, you may find one or two dogs that reside at VisComm during business hours and if you are lucky, you might find the full canine trio running outside, chasing squirrels, eating twigs, or going for an afternoon stroll. Allow me to officially introduce the Lake Forest College community to the Vis Com dogs, who have acquired superstardom for their cuteness and distinctive personalities.

Chester, the old man of the trio, is a ten year old, often bushy, black and tan mutt who is known for his obedience and tranquility. His favorite treats are apples and carrots. Therefore, if you were passing by and stopped in for a visit at Vis Com, think about giving Chester a treat.

The more recent additions to the Vis Comm family are Snoopy and Yeti. Snoopy is a ten-month-old shaggy, black and white Poodle-Bijon. He is the most energetic of the dogs. Snoopy tends to bark his greeting to one and all (mostly in the morning) but simmers down by the afternoon. He has the biggest eyes, chases squirrels, chews paper, and barks at rugs and cloth for some reason. Watch your step, you might find yourself stepping over the little guy without noticing, or he will pounce on your shoelaces like a lion.

Last, but not least, Yeti joined the Vis Comm family barely a month ago. He is a four and a half month old, red and white English Bull Dog. He is incredibly stubborn, and loves to challenge the often jealous Snoopy at any game, whether it be chasing a tennis ball, tug of war, or seeing who can get the most attention from customers. For a large puppy (over 40 pounds) one might perceive him as tough, but he is adorable and has a sweet disposition. He is pure love on four legs, and has the wimpiest bark. The snaggletooth sticking out of his mouth is nothing to be worried about.

Lake Forest College appears to be a haven for dogs, found throughout nearly all the departments. So, if you find yourself on Middle Campus, stop by Vis Comm to greet the trio; they love the attention. For all you guys out there, dogs are the perfect chick magnets or can help at least meet and greet daily passerby’s. Anyone is welcome to take them out for walks, as long as you are willing to carry the prerequisite plastic bag to take care of any deposits our four-legged friends might leave on the grass. Or just come to scratch their bellies and watch Snoopy and Yeti compete for hegemony. The VisComm puppies are sure to be a bright spot in your day.

The pooches’ gaze is known to freeze grown men in awe.

Photos by Ian Gonfinete

Chester, Yeti, and Snoopy look up at the camera.

Yeti plays with Chester while Snoopy watches.
Theater Review, Part 2

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CAST OF THREE SISTERS

NELSON IGUNMA
CO-NEWS EDITOR
igunma@lakeforest.edu

Although the curtain has fallen on this year’s Lake Forest College production of Anton Chekhov’s Three Sisters, The Stentor continues its appreciation of this year’s Spring production with Part 2 of an interview with the three leads and the director of Three Sisters, conducted before Spring Break. Below, director Richard Corley and actresses Joanna Becker ’13, Victoria Johnson ’12, and Imhoff Imhoff ’12 (who played Irina, Masha, and Olga respectively) venture into a deeper analysis of this classic and oft-adapted piece of work.

On the director’s vision for a classic play:

Stentor: This is a play that is well regarded and has been played in multiple venues. I think right now there’s a production going on right now with Maggie Gyllenhaal. When you signed on for the play, what was your plan for it? How have those ideas developed over the course of the play?

Corley: Three Sisters is probably one of the two greatest Russian plays ever written and probably one of the ten greatest plays ever written. I think the reason it’s considered that is because it’s the greatest example of how theater can do, which is arrest time and have us look at ourselves in a particular moment, in a particular slice, of time… In terms of the design, On Moscow, a major, if unseen, character in the play:

Stentor: What does Moscow mean for the sisters? How does their relationship to it as a location and an idea develop over the course of the play? And why don’t they just buy a train ticket and go? Why aren’t they working to get there?

Imhoff: We all long for things we don’t have, things that we want and never will be able to attain. She has memories of Moscow, of the happy days they had there as a family, of the opportunities, and I think mainly in regards to a big chunk of that is the possibility of marriage. Even if the possibility is slight, there is still one there; in her current situation there is none. Moscow represents all the happiness she wants and never has, all of the opportunity she wants and doesn’t have, and it’s kind of the way to get out of her life that she has right now…

I don’t think Olga enjoys her life right now, and I think in Moscow she will find her happiness and in Moscow by herself. First of all, that’s not the proper way for her to do it; that’s not the way Olga wants it to be either with the ones that she loves…Buying a train ticket is not the way to do that. She would never consider that. That’s not what she wants. She wants to revive the life [her family lived in Moscow], so she wants to get there in a proper way and find a way out of the responsibilities she has in her current life. She can’t just burn down bridges and leave. And I think Moscow for her is just a haven… It’s the past… In her current situation, everything is dull; she knows how she’s going to live for the next 30 or 40 years of her life. There’s no excitement, there’s no opportunity, nothing… Moscow is opportunities, a different life.

Johnson: For all of the sisters, Moscow represents a representative of a happier time when our father was alive. I’m sure if they ended up going back it wouldn’t be as glamorous as they think… Masha, once again, because she’s married it’s really not an option for her to go to the first place. It’s established, subtly, in Act One, that while her husband may be kind of a dope it’s not an option. She can’t just pick up and leave her life and abandon her matrimonial duties. She’s got nowhere to put her unhappiness. At least the other two [sisters] can dream of going to Moscow, but she can’t even think about that. Then Vershinin shows up and he’s from Moscow and he’s smart.

Becker: When Irina hears the word “Moscow,” it’s like a little bell that goes off… For her, I think, why she hasn’t gone to Moscow is because of her sisters, who are such a big influence on her. Another reason is that in those times women didn’t have a lot of say in what they wanted to do, so that kind of holds her back. I think the main reason why that holds her back is because she has this vision in her head of what Moscow is like and as the play progresses she has this fear that when she gets to Moscow it’s not going to be what she’s hoped for. And this dream of Moscow, this dream of beauty and life that she wants so much out of Moscow is something she will never have.

Stentor: Do you have anything to add?

Corley: Yeah, I think the idea of Moscow and why they don’t go is precisely the difference between reality and fantasy. You know, someone once said that life is what happens when you’re waiting for something else to happen and that’s the hard truth of the play: that we all have dreams and visions of what we believe will someday come to us, will someday arrive…

That’s why we go buy lottery tickets, right? While we’re waiting for the numbers to come up on the lottery ticket, life happens. While we’re waiting for Mr. Right to come along, life happens. Life happens while we’re looking for that incredible job that’s about to come along down the way. And that’s what the play portrays. Moscow, it represents different things for all of them. For Olga, it’s a vision of the past that was lost. For Irina, who was just a child when they left Moscow, it kind of represents a kind of golden future because she never really experienced it; she’s imagining it. And then for Masha I think it does kind of represent a kind of lost opportunity, a lost dream, that she can only embody through things in a roundabout way. You know, she can get it through somebody else. So, [the play] really deals with how people deal with dreams deferred in life and about how imaginative we all can be and dealing with those things on a daily basis.

Moscow is a real place but also the idea of what’s out there for us in the future. And the play, the four acts of the play, shows what happens when we’re not looking. Because the sisters can’t really focus on life and they have this dream of Moscow and they have all these romantic ideas about it, what happens? Natasha takes over the house and basically throws all of them out. At the end of the play, none of them are in their own house… and the reason for that is Natasha does not live in the fantasy. Natasha lives in reality, with both feet firmly on the ground, and she lives in a very real and tactical way. “My baby needs that room, Irina, you’re out.” “We need more space on the land.” Let’s cut the trees down.”

I think Chekhov, in his clear-eyed and brutal way, is saying that’s the way life works. Those people who are not willing to be romantic and cynical and sentimental about everything get things done and do things in life. Those people who dream, romanticize, poeticize the world, tend not to get things done. You can say that’s a cynical view of life, but I think it’s a well-earned, realistic view of life by a man who was a doctor, produced extraordinary art in his life, took care of his family, and made things happen for himself.

On the context for the play and the Chekhov’s intent…

Stentor: Since the play is taking place at a time when this particular family is in economic decline and there are many changes taking place in Russian society in a big way, do you think Chekhov is trying to send a social message through the characters, like Natasha?

Corley: Well, the play was interpreted that way by the Soviets; They used it in their own particular way. The history of the play, the way that Russians dealt with Chekhov is interesting. They used Chekhov, politicized his work as a metaphor for whatever ideas they wanted to espouse.

But my own personal point-of-view is that he wasn’t really interested in politics per se, although he was interested in the betterment of human beings…

He founded hospitals, he built schools, he was very interested in the betterment of society, but he wasn’t interested in making a political point. I do believe that he wanted to change the world and that he believed his art could change the world.

I do believe that [Chekhov] wanted to change the world and that he believed his art could change the world.

-Richard Corley

the ten greatest plays ever written. I think the reason it’s considered that is because it’s the greatest example of one of the things theater can do, which is arrest time and she will enjoy her life… Why can’t they buy a train ticket and go to Moscow? First of all, for Olga, again, I think it’s responsibility. She can’t just go to Moscow and be
Staff Editorial: A public appeal to make the budget process fair and effective

Student Government recently completed the primary step of budget allocations. All that remains is the potential filing of an appeal by organizations displeased with the amount of funding they have been allocated, a process that must be completed by April 16.

Well, the Stentor would like to file an appeal. This appeal is not necessarily about our Executive Board-mandated budget, although we do have issue with that. Rather, we appeal the budget process itself as problematic and in need of reform.

Deciding a budget is difficult. Certainly no one on this staff has had to balance the needs and desires of every campus club with the limited resources of cash available. But the power of representative government is dissent and discussion, not the easy assent to authority. This budget process deserves our dissent since we certainly did not get the chance for discussion.

The money given to an organization is a trust, a bond formed between an activity, the government, and the school. It essentially says, “This is how much you are worth to us and how much we believe you need to operate effectively.”

In that summation, we see the great complication of democracy—subjectivity. Who gets money and why is a question every club leader and every student senator and every member of the Executive Board has a different answer for, based upon rational and justifiable reasoning.

Board consists of too few people making too many decisions. The Stentor advocates a shift to a Senate that controls - or at least is acutely involved in - the budgetary decisions.

That way, while difficult decisions will still happen - eggs, omelet, all that - they will be the result of democracy rather than a few elites deciding the fate of hundreds.

Our specific contention lays in the following:

- On the budget request form, as quoted from the Constitution, one of the “priorities” is the “maintenance of an effective, community-wide communication system on campus” (for example: The Stentor, WMXM).” Therefore, we are a priority according to the Constitution.

- But we are no longer able to decide our priorities. As we were told, “Currently the Stentor has $19,350 for annual printing. The paper copies [sic] are not being fully utilized. In an effort to become a greener campus we are asking that more publications go online and lower the number of printed copies [sic].”

Let us evaluate this statement. The first sentence is a statement of fact. The second may be fact depending on perspective, but given with the expectation of compliance and the lack of likelihood that it can be countermanded. Print is a valuable method of communication. And it is dying in the world. The budget as it stands looks to wound it on campus.

The Stentor does plan to have a website this fall. We were not looking to announce that in these circumstances, but here we are. The website will use all the strengths of the online medium—video segments, comment sections, transcripts, and all the fixings. But an online publication is a great addition-- not a replacement.

There is also a contradiction in our budget as it was dictated to us. If we are expected to focus almost entirely on web content, and, as explained in our request, the computers in the office are slow, broken, and often unmanageable, then why is there a request for a computer rejected?

These questions the Executive Board answered for themselves, but not for us and not for the student body. We have not been represented; we have been put in our place. What other student organizations have also been put in their places? A full report will be in the News section next week.

Look upon your government and consider: is this effecual and fair? We think not. The decision should lie with the people, not a special few - a few elected without contest. The problem of Student Government is our problem, not theirs. Let us improve it.

President’s Corner

Learning to have an attitude of gratitude

ELISE BECKMAN
COLUMNIST
beckmen@lakeforest.edu

As I was walking around campus last week, I realized that we do not show our appreciation for each other nearly enough. Sure, we appreciate our friends or members of our own organizations. We may even occasionally thank our professors or that one staff member who keeps us sane. However, we do not show appreciation for each other as students, for the Forester faculty and staff, or for our administration, or for the College in general. Or, at least, we do not do it enough.

This is where we start. It’s quite small--one simple action. All you have to do is say “thank you.” When you receive food in the Caf, say thank you. When you attend an amazing program that clearly took hours, days, or months out of another student’s life, say “thank you.” When your RA unlocks your door without charging you (for the twentieth time), say “thank you.”

Remember to thank Ursula when you go to get quarters for laundry or to turn in petty cash forms to be reimbursed for event supplies. Remember to thank President Schutt when you pass him on the pathways. Remember to thank Ann and Miss Barbara and Willie when you are the next student in line in the Cafeteria.

Just remember to thank the people who make your lives easier on a daily basis. Trust me—a thank you goes a long way-- and it only takes two words.

Correction: In last week’s President’s Corner, the title was mistakenly placed by the editor.
Writing to defend Rebecca Black and put the blame for poor pop music where it belongs: on the shoulders of consumerist culture

PAUL HENNE
COLUMNIST
hennepm@lakeforest.edu

This article may be a little bit late, but its lateness is apposite for its topic. For, by now, everyone should have fully digested the wholesome Rebecca Black meal, and they should have some sort of theory for what went wrong with this unfortunately annoying song and video. Surely, most people have a sort of pithy and humorous way to mock the “Friday” video. An inordinately large amount of people, however, have dwelled on this phenomenon, developing verbose speeches about the song’s failings.

There are many arguments – but they are not significantly diverse. Most music listeners suggest that Black is her production company’s mistake – a pop artist gone wrong – and that someone wrongly chose this faulty star. Others argue that such a desppicable piece of hooey is not even worthy of discussion. Some listeners polemicize every aspect of the song and wish to have her expunged from the music industry. These listeners write ruthlessly hurtful YouTube comments on her video and produce parody videos.

The most common objection to the popularity of Black’s “Friday,” however, is that her music is just stupid. There are thousands of YouTube video tirades criticizing her lyrics for being insipid, her voice for being unoriginal and robotic, and her video for being inane.

Typically, these sophisticated YouTubers lack support for their critiques; they merely read her lyrics and say, “Look! It’s just dumb – like the F**k You!”

Rarely do these self-indulgent critics consider Black’s age. They do not, in other words, seem to realize that they are mocking a thirteen-year-old girl. What these jerks forget is that if they met Rebecca Black, they would be entirely incapable of calling her an idiot. Even a twenty-something-year-old English major, with perfect GRE verbal scores and 10,000 hits on his jargon filled video blog, would not be able to harangue this girl for making a music video.

These critics, in turn, are simply excited that some lame pop song is finally accessible enough for them to mock. By this, I mean that Black’s critics are far too excited about de-riding her for saying something simple (that is, the days of the week). It would, in other words, be a lot more challenging for these jerks to pick up Kant and read, “Pure mathematics, as synthetic cognition a priori, is possible only by referring to no other objects than those of the senses,” and assume that people get how stupid Kant is. Because these critics do not have to put any effort into mocking Black, they are really showing how uncreative and insecure they are. These Rebecca-Black mockers are just insecure jerks.

Seriously though, they are deriding a thirteen-year-old girl’s simple lyrics. And they are doing it to make themselves feel smart! [Well, I guess I am glad that you jerks so fluently know the freaking days of the week.]

I am ordinarily not a jerk. Hence, I do not blame Rebecca Black for being a complete moron, nor do I blame Ark Music Factory for choosing a poor songwriter or singer. Instead, I will, nonetheless, need to explain this a little.

The mundane structure of Black’s song refers back to the early days of pop music. Although I cannot determine the first song to hold a robust verse-chorus-verse structure, I know that it is deeply ingrained in popular music. Here, I encourage the reader to think of King Harvest’s “Dancing in the Moonlight” and the Beatles’ “I saw her standing there.” Of course, neither of these songs drone on as blandly as Black’s “Friday.” But the idea is there.

Listeners of pop music expect the intros of chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus structure without any major deviation from this tradition. The expectation has become so stringent that songwriters write songs like “Friday” for the market economy – or for the demand for music of this type. There is, nonetheless, a deviation from this tradition in Black’s song: the rap breakdown. But this apparent deviance is merely ostensible, for it is now part of the pop genre’s syntax that developed out of the late eighties and early nineties. One of the first songs to incorporate and popularize the rap breakdown in the bridge was M. Jackson’s “Black or White.” The rap breakdown, however, has become a necessity for at least one song on every pop album. This breakdown packed with teenage deviance is hidden within the depths of the song’s bridge. There it has been used hyperbolically in music.

Ever since K-Ci and JoJo used auto tune to make the chorus stand out, musicians like T-Pain, Lil Wayne, and Kanye have exploited the effect. Unless you are Jay-Z, if you are in the rap industry or the pop industry, you must use auto-tune to capture your audience’s attention. Unfortunately, the pop music industry has ingrained this talent encouraging technique into the weak minds of our country’s thirteen-year-olds. Knowing that market for Black’s music would expect this vocal effect, the production company incorporated it within the song.

But some critics of “Friday” suggest that while we cannot blame Black or Art Music for the genre’s unfortunate adherence to auto-tune and poorly placed rap breakdown, we can blame Clarence, Jey, and Patrice Wilson for writing such stupid lyrics. Here, the critics point to the days of the week and laugh.

But even these lyrics perfectly adhere to the genre’s concerns for a market. The lyrics, first and foremost, are syntactically seditious. Like many pop songs, the lyrics defy any normative understanding of English grammar or style. Here, I point to ambiguous or vague uses of pronouns, subject-verb agreement, and sentence fragments (that – for some reason – sound like sentences).

Specifically, Black says, “We so excited.” This misuse highlights her anti-anticipation for the vaguely defined party and illuminate her and her audience’s rebellion toward proper English and social structure. Like most pop songs, this syntactical rebellion – like the rap breakdown – is an easy way for pop artists to appear rebellious. Notably, her song lyrics are also about something to which everyone can relate: the days of the week and partying. Again, she ad-heres to the norms of a pop song in order to capture her audience.

The lyrics, some may even argue, are artistically sound. Black, in a way, allows for the viewer’s creation. In the song, she lends him or her no answer and no direction. For instance, whether or not she takes the front seat or the back seat Black does not tell – although the video suggests the backseat.

It should now be clear, that Black’s “Friday” is not Ark Music Foundation’s poor choice of a teenage star. The song strictly adheres to all of the traditional norms established by the music industry’s understanding of what its audiences desire. The song, thus, is not a bad song; for, it brilliantly adheres to every normative quality of a pop song.

Instead, “Friday” represents a failure of us – the audience – to recognize what is desirable in music.
Ask Isaac and Eileen, with Isaac Acosta and Eileen Newcomer*

I’m a freshman and I’m considering joining Greek Life next year. What do guys think about the sororities and fraternities on campus? Do I have anything to worry about or be excited about? Does everyone drink?

-Partyin’ partyin’ yeah

Issac: Every genre has its artists and bands that cooperate to make good music. Plain White T’s has its good songs; I think we should all appreciate the hard efforts of E-team and the school for providing us with a concert at all.

Issac: Road trip to California. Nothing says, “Free at last, let’s begin summer” like the beautiful weather of Cali. Visit all the great cities and tourist places. It should be fun.

An optimist would say, “In time everything will get better, we’re coming back, you’ll see.” A pessimist would say, “When we get a decent president and war ends, we might just have a chance.”

What’s the best music out there nowadays? I feel like there’s so much auto-tuned pop and so little quality. Also, Plain White T’s, you down?

- A connoisseur

Issac: The fraternities and sororities on this campus are great ways to make friends and offer an expansion on one’s social network as well as being part of a community service organization. Greek life offers a close bond with a group of people that you end up doing events with. No, not everyone drinks; the main thing is there is no pressure for drinking. Get excited for the events each organization does and be worried about how much it is to be part of Greek life.

Eileen: I’ll be honest, when I went to college I never thought in a million years that I would join Greek Life. Then this year I went through COB, joined Kappa Alpha Theta, and I love it. It’s really changed my college experience for the better. I know that greek life is not for everyone, but it is a great thing to consider. There are a lot of opportunities for leadership, networking, scholarships, academic life, and social outlets that may not be easily found other places. And no not everyone drinks, and that’s the gospel truth.

Eileen: It’s still too early to give up hope in finding a post-grab job. Utilize your resources here: go talk to the career services center, see if you can get connected with alumni, etc. Follow your heart though; try to find something you truly enjoy.

Eileen: I’m a music elitist. I’m the person who loves to say that I found them first. So, as a fellow music snob, I would like to respond to the general jab I’ve heard directed at Plain White Ts. You are not allowed to judge a band based off of the two songs you have heard on the radio. As a true snob you are not allowed to “discover” bands based on songs you’ve heard on the radio.

Now to my defense of Plain White Ts, I have been listening to them since 2002 when my friend first slipped me a copy of “Stop.” That CD opened so many doors of music I’d never considered listening to before. They followed “Stop” with another great album “All That We Needed.” All I can say is that if you have not listened to both of those CDs you have no room to judge the quality of the band.

Finally, although it is admittedly overplayed, “Hey There Delilah” was still an amazing song the very first time you heard it, hence it becoming so popular.

Eileen: Although I try not to show it, I do at times consider myself a music elitist. I’m the person who loves to say that I found them first.

So, as a fellow music snob, I would like to respond to the general jab I’ve heard directed at Plain White Ts. You are not allowed to judge a band based off of the two songs you have heard on the radio. As a true snob you are not allowed to “discover” bands based on songs you’ve heard on the radio.

Now to my defense of Plain White Ts, I have been listening to them since 2002 when my friend first slipped me a copy of “Stop.” That CD opened so many doors of music I’d never considered listening to before. They followed “Stop” with another great album “All That We Needed.” All I can say is that if you have not listened to both of those CDs you have no room to judge the quality of the band.

Finally, although it is admittedly overplayed, “Hey There Delilah” was still an amazing song the very first time you heard it, hence it becoming so popular.

So now to music recommendations, I’ve been listening to a lot more folk-sy-ish music lately, and I enjoy it immensely. Bands like, A Fine Frenzy, Florence and the Machine, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, and Manchester Orchestra have been dominating my playlists. A couple other bands I’d like to drop the names of are Say Anything and Jack’s Mannequin.

Issac: An optimist would say, “In time everything will get better, we’re coming back, you’ll see.” A pessimist would say, “When we get a decent president and war ends, we might just have a chance.”

Ask Isaac and Eileen, with Isaac Acosta and Eileen Newcomer*

Have a pressing question you want to ask Isaac and Eileen? They can help! Academic problems? Relationship advice needed? Just want to express yourself about the world around you? They would love to hear from you! Send them an e-mail at acostic@lakeforest.edu and newcoet@lakeforest.edu.

* Isaac Acosta, and Eileen Newcomer wish to gently remind their readers that her horoscopes and their advisements are written merely for entertainment purposes, and no decisions should be made based upon them.
EDITORIAL: Baseball, once America’s glorious pastime, is no longer the game it used to be

NICK CANTOR
SPORTS EDITOR
cantors@lakeforest.edu

With the temperature slowly rising and the sun setting later and later each day, the arrival of springtime can only mean one thing: baseball season is upon us once again. Since coming to the Chicago-land area I quickly (and unfortunately) learned that baseball often takes a backseat on most days to the other three major sports, football, hockey, and basketball in the Windy City. I remember sitting in the bleachers at U.S. Cellular Field on a Sunday afternoon in late September of my freshman year during a crucial end of the season game for the White Sox, and trying to comprehend the inordinate number of empty seats that existed in the upper deck of the ballpark. “How could there not be a sellout crowd for a game of such importance?” I asked the person I was at the game with. “It’s just the way it is,” he replied. And so began my education as to what the game of baseball means to the people in Chicago.

It makes sense as of now that the city of Chicago has placed its athletic passion in teams other than the Cubs and White Sox. Let alone the fact that the two franchises have combined for one World Series Title over the last one hundred plus years, the city’s other three teams have all had or are in the middle of having existing great numbers. The Blackhawks are defending Stanley Cup Champions, the Bears were one win away from a trip to the Super Bowl last year, and the Bulls, along with their soon to be named MVP Derrick Rose, are poised to make a run in this year’s playoffs. With all the success of the other three teams, there exists little room, or perhaps desire to devote oneself for an entire season to the “loveable losers” or the Sox on the South Side. Even with the Sox winning a title in 2005, the game of baseball in the Windy City, like a shy freshman in the cafeteria in the Student Center, has found itself often on the outside.

Through sitting at Wrigley and U.S. Cellular Field on numerous occasions over the years, I have come to find that the game of baseball is simply not the same in the Midwest as it is back home in New England and the overall Northeast. I came to Chicago expecting to be absorbed by a rabid group of fans, divided by their allegiances to either the Cubs or White Sox, but united in an overall love for the game. What I have found, sadly, has slowly but surely come to be the case in many places around the country, with crowds at games growing sparser, due to both the struggling economy and growing lack of interest in a game that often takes three hours to complete.

Like any city, Chicago is one that will embrace their sports teams most when they are winning. It is a natural concept that overall interest increases as the wins pile up. The cities and fan bases that have come to be known as some of the most dedicated in the game would most certainly not be what they are were it not for the overall success they have enjoyed. To lose interest in a team when they are not doing well does not make one a “bad” fan per say, but it also denies them the right to claim that they believed in their team all along should they someday reach the top.

Cubs fans earn a free pass in this category for obvious reasons. To be dedicated to the Cubs without exception is like expecting to win a free prize in one of those “claw” machines at a mall. Occasionally you will come close, but more times than not you walk away asking yourself why you even bothered in the first place. Yet, despite this, Cubs fans have flocked to Wrigley Field over the years in great numbers. Maybe it’s for the simple desire to witness the lush green ivy that covers the outfield wall during summer, or maybe it’s to be part of a festive, party atmosphere with the game of baseball being played in the background, but whatever it is Wrigley Field has helped keep baseball alive in the city of Chicago despite the seemingly inevitable doom that lies in wait for the team that plays their 81 times a year.

While I often times find myself longing for East Coast baseball and all that comes with it, the chance to live outside a city that has two teams has enabled me to see the game of baseball in a new light. I have come to accept through great resiliency that baseball in Chicago is not what I had hoped it would be. However, where I feel disappointment on one level, I have found fascination in the distinctions, often times socially and geographically related ones that exist among Chicago’s baseball community. I am always interested to learn on Cubs fans that live on the South Side of Chicago and Sox fans on the North Side, another important reminder that where one lives does not restrict who they can and choose to root for in the world of sports. My hope is that both of Chicago’s teams will see success in the near future. The White Sox’ 2005 World Series Title is slowly beginning to diminish in its value with each passing year, and the Cubs, well, are simply the Cubs. I want them to win not only because they deserve to, but because it would help the game of baseball to have two of its most successful franchises playing in a major U.S. city. If Chicago wins, then the game of baseball wins. Should baseball die in a city with as much life and energy as Chicago, then there is little hope it will regain its glorified state from the past in other places that need it as well.

The atmosphere of Wrigley Field has kept Cubs fans pouring into the stadium despite the team’s struggles.

Whereas the Cubs and their fans may hold the advantage in numbers, White Sox fans, along with a World Series Title within the last century, hold claim to greater passion and dedication. U.S. Cellular Field may not sell out as often as Wrigley, but the fans who do show up are true, knowledgeable, and expectant of success. I can attest to this, and while I continue to struggle to understand why a team with reasonable success and a history as old as the one of their North Side counterparts, cannot draw sellout crowds on a consistent basis despite playing in the Nation’s third largest city, I have come to respect White Sox fans as better overall fans than Cubs fans. As said during an episode of the new Television series The Chicago Code and undoubtedly by many South Side residents: “There are two types of people in Chicago: baseball fans, and Cubs fans.”