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Inside:

- Snoprah comes to campus and
- Foresters show their true character
- Parking on campus investigated
- Toy Story 3 reviewed
Parking at LFC: An issue less dire than it seems

The North Campus Parking Lot lives up to its zoo-like reputation

LILLIAN DYPOLD
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Any commuter student who has arrived on campus around 1:40pm for their 2:00pm class and has spent ten minutes circling for a parking spot can tell you that parking is a serious problem on the Lake Forest campus. Still, no clear solution seems to present itself, and with the college planning to boost enrollment in the coming years, it seems unlikely that the problem will resolve itself.

The Office of Public Safety, charged with maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, is often demonized as the dreaded enforcer of unsatisfactory parking regulations. However, Public Safety has little choice in whether they issue tickets—enforcing the rules is their job, and the rules are there for a reason.

Furthermore, these rules are neither ancient nor unexamined. The parking regulations are reviewed yearly, and the campus has seen several significant changes in response to student complaints.

In the past, several parking regulations enforced a class-year hierarchy. For example, parking lots were segregated by class year, giving priority to seniors. Additionally, seniors were given all-campus parking permits, rather than the single campus permits issued for all residential students now. For commuters, until last year, freshmen and sophomores were required to park on South Campus away from the vast majority of their classes. For some, this meant driving forty-five minutes or more to get to school, parking on South campus, and then taking a ten to fifteen minute walk to class.

This may seem insignificant to some, but consider a commuter who has an 8am class. They would need to leave their own homes by 6:30am in order to ensure an on-time arrival to class. For many, this would mean waking in the very early hours of the morning, not to catch up on homework or to get in an early morning workout, but simply to get to class on time.

Another change made in the fall due to student concerns was the provision that during the day, students may park in student spaces on any campus, regardless of the campus on which their permit is valid, provided they are parked for less than ten minutes and have their flashers turned on. This provision allows for students who live on south or north campus to make quick runs to Middle Campus, in order to pick something up, drop something off, or purchase something from the bookstore, Boomer’s or the new P.O.D market.

Public Safety is certainly accommodating to student concerns, but ultimately, maintaining a safe and secure learning environment (as stated on the Public Safety website) is a joint effort between students and staff.

It is easy to say that Public Safety issues too many tickets, but how many tickets are they issuing, in reality? Richard Cohen, Director of Public Safety, stated that since the 1st of the year 129 tickets have been issued, and since August of 2009 only 2,953 tickets have been issued. Considering that our campus currently has 883 parking spots available, 129 tickets in about a month adds up to less than 1% of the parking spots being ticketed per day.

Furthermore, Cohen adamantly asserts, “100% of tickets that are issued are preventable by the driver.” This statement may seem absurd at first reading, but when one considers that nearly all tickets are issued because the driver chose to park in a spot not available to them, the statement appears accurate. Cohen added, “Over the last three years, less than ten tickets have been officer errors.” Tickets are issued because students (and staff and faculty) park where not permitted, either out of laziness or negligence.

This may be true, but it’s hard to tell a student who is about to be late for class that they can’t park in one of the many empty faculty spots when no student spots are available. Although the number of faculty/staff parking spots is adjusted yearly to reflect the need, representatives from the Commuter Student Organization (CSO) said this is an all-too-often occurrence.

Currently there are 287 parking spots available for faculty and staff and 538 for students. Of course, Middle Campus, where 204 spots are reserved for faculty and only 148 for students, is where the real problem lies—and not just for commuters.

Commuters, faculty and staff, and residential students with Middle Campus-only parking permits have all voiced concerns about parking issues on middle campus during the middle of the day. One resident student explained that they left their parking spot to run an errand, but when they returned to Middle Campus, they could not find a parking spot. Unlike a Commuter student, who has an all-campus permit, this student needed to find a spot on Middle, not for convenience, but in order to obey the rules.

The CSO, when asked about possible solutions, said that, although Middle Campus residents would object, perhaps they should be forced to park on south campus during the day, where parking is still less available. Considering that our campus currently has 883 parking spots available, 129 tickets in about a month adds up to less than 1% of the parking spots being ticketed per day.

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The CLC and Student Government are open to and even excited about a conversation on transportation and parking issues, but students need to be realistic and keep in mind that these issues are usually not as simple as one might think.

One Student Government Senator who is especially excited about transportation issues is sophomore Matt Cunliffe. Cunliffe has been working closely with Pat Doggett since the spring of last year and he hopes to make the shuttle system a more viable form of transportation for students.

Currently, the shuttle is a drastically under-used resource. As enrollment boosts, the appeal of the shuttle will likely play a key role in determining the level of competition for limited parking on campus. If the shuttle is seen as a viable form of transportation, then the perceived need for cars may decrease.

During the recent Student Government election, a possible shuttle to Chicago became a key issue. Unfortunately, getting a shuttle to Chicago is easier said than done. There would be many things to consider: Where should it go? When should it run? Why is it needed? Who would use it? And most critically, how would it be financed? Cunliffe, along with others, is working through...

Continued on Page 3
Continued from Page 2

these questions presently, and a survey of the campus on this issue is likely to be seen in coming months. Cunliffe explained his argument for the shuttle, saying that if Lake Forest College is going to call itself “Chicago’s National Liberal Arts College” then they need to make getting into Chicago an easy and affordable venture.

Currently, a weekend pass on the Metra is $7, with an extra $5.75 for a day pass on the CTA. This means that a single trip into the city costs nearly $13 just for transportation. The Center for Chicago programs does sell reduced price 10-ride passes, but even this adds up.

If a shuttle to Chicago was provided by the school, it would likely run only on weekends, with three runs in and out of the city on Saturday and Sunday, with a possible default stop at Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue. The cost of the shuttle would be considerable, and it would likely result in a drop in the number of stops the campus shuttle would make on the weekends.

One possible means of financing the shuttle would be to raise all student activity fees by $5. Although no one wants to see the cost of school attendance increase, $5 for a whole year of service in and out of the city hardly even compares to the current cost of $13 for a single trip.

Even with a possible shuttle to Chicago, parking will likely remain an issue. However, it’s not an issue that is easily solved. Parking is as much a safety issue as it is an aesthetic and philosophical one. The Office of Public Safety explains this well. Their website states that Lake Forest is “a residential pedestrian campus with a limited number of parking spaces available. Therefore, we restrict the availability of parking not only for philosophical reasons but also for purely practical ones – there simply are not enough spaces to provide parking for everyone who would like to have a car on campus”.

Although many would like more spots, few would like to see a parking garage in the middle of campus, and Brune questions whether the City of Lake Forest would allow this. Ultimately, the decision to create new parking spots, with all of its philosophic, aesthetic, and practical baggage, would have to come from the desk of President Schutt.

For now, this remains an unresolved issue. If you have a particularly strong opinion on the matter The Stentor encourages you to write to its editors or to write your own opinion piece.

Additionally, Sarah Brune and Matt Cunliffe, along with other Student Government officials, are always available to hear from the Student Body that they serve. All Student Senators currently hold weekly office hours, most are more than willing to meet outside of those hours, and soon students will have an opportunity to speak to their Senator during Student Senate tabling hours outside of the Cafeteria. Do not let your voice go unheard.

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Lake Forest goes to the Loop

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Recently, Lake Forest has introduced a new off-campus study program located in the heart of Chicago. This new program, called Lake Forest in the Loop, will not only provide students with the opportunity to partake in unique classes for credit, but to gain internship experience as well.

The fall of 2011 will be the first semester that students are able to participate in this new program. Students may either pursue an academic concentration, or enroll in classes at either Roosevelt University or Columbia College in Chicago. The academic concentration being offered for the fall of 2011 is American Studies, while Environmental Studies will be offered in 2012.

At one of the recent information sessions, possible internships listed included Rolling Stone Magazine, NBC, and the Shedd Aquarium. Students will also have the ability to find their own internships.

The application process has two steps, the first of which is eligibility verification. The deadline for the first stage is Monday, February 21st. Complete details are available on the Lake Forest College website. The application for the second stage is due on March 16th, but will be available later this month.

Students accepted into this program will live in the seventh floor of Hostelling International, a building located in downtown Chicago that features suite-style living and cooking facilities. For those wishing to get a better sense of the living amenities and surrounding area, a tour will be given on Saturday, February 12th. Students are responsible for arriving at 2pm, but will be reimbursed through the Center for Chicago Programs for the full value of their Metra weekend pass, and five dollars towards their CTA fare. Students must register in the Center for Chicago Programs to attend.

MSA provides an opportunity to ask a Muslim student anything

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While the idea of an event called “Ask a Muslim Anything” might evoke the image of a sole Muslim student facing a crowd of students asking ignorant questions they could have answered with a Google search, the real “Ask a Muslim Student Anything”, which was held in the Center for Chicago Programs on January 27th and sponsored by the Muslim Student Association (MSA), proved to be more constructive and intimate than imagined.

First of all, there was more than one student assigned to field questions from the curious. Second, in order to promote better discussion and possibly a sense of closeness, everyone was seated in a circle, with no real distinctions between those who asked questions and those who answered them. The panelists were:

- Shabana Yusufishaq, junior
- Farzeen Tariq, sophomore
- Brittany Fuller, freshman
- Sejoud Karmash, junior
- Hossam El Bashari, freshman
- Yusufishaq

With some faculty and staff present, these students lead a discussion that was at different turns frank, personal, opinionated, surprising, and informational. This statement was meant to highlight a point that informed the importance of the panel: that Islam is “a way of life”, and that MSA is trying to “promote the culture, the diversity, and the religion in the campus community.” The diversity of the campus community was reflected in the panel’s diversity of background and experience: Yusufishaq was born in India with parents from South Africa; Tariq was from Pakistan; Fuller provided “the perspective of an [Mexican-] American converting to Islam”; Karmash was from Palestine, and El Bashari was from Egypt.

The panel answered questions that clarified aspects of Islamic theology and tradition such as: What’s the purpose of the hijab? How is Jesus Christ viewed by Muslims? and What is the best part of Islamic culture?

However, as with most things related to Islam, the discussion at times became political, with the panelists being asked questions about the separation of mosque and state, how the panelists attempted to “get rid of the Muslim terrorist label”, and how their lives have changed since 9/11.

Overall, the event provided an opportunity for those with any type of question to ask it in a safe space where it would be received as an effort to advance a dialogue. In the end, it did.

With reporting from Lillian Dypold

Upcoming Events

2/10 What is life like? 9:30am
2/10 Plastik Musik presented by e.Team 11:00am
2/10 New Member Education Programs 4:15pm
2/10 John Waters Film Fest: “Hairspray” (1988) 4:15pm
1-Ching Readings 10:00pm
2/11 Bear to Build presented by e.Team 11:00am
2/11 Men’s Tennis: Lake Forest at UW-Whitewater 3:00pm
Bucket O’Love 4:30pm
2/11 ZUMBA! 4:30pm
2/11 Women’s Basketball: Lake Forest at Beloit 5:30pm
2/11 Second Fridays Gallery Night 6:00pm
2/11 Men’s Hockey: Lake Forest vs. Milwaukee Engr. 7:30pm
2/11 “The Soloist” Movie Night 7:30pm
2/11 Poetry Slam 8:00pm
2/12 Men’s Tennis: Lake Forest vs. Lakeland 11:00am
2/12 New Member Education Programs 11:00am
2/12 New Member Education Programs 1:00pm
2/12 Men’s Tennis: Lake Forest at Lawrence1:30pm
2/12 Tour of Lake Forest In The Loop residence hall 2:00
2/12 Women’s Basketball: Lake Forest vs. Monmouth 2:00pm
2/12 Tour of Lake Forest In The Loop residence hall 2:00pm
2/12 Men’s Basketball: Lake Forest vs. Monmouth 4:00pm
2/12 Women’s Hockey: Lake 2/Forest vs. Marian 4:30pm
2/12 Roommate Problems? 7:00pm
2/12 e.Team Dinner 7:00pm
2/12 Red Light Green Light ACP 11:00pm
Lake Forest College Parking At a Glance

Parking Capacity by Campus

- North: 40%
- Middle: 15%
- South: 42%
- Glen Rowan: 3%

Parking Allotment by Type

- Student: 62%
- Faculty/Staff: 12%
- Other: 26%

North Campus

- Student: 92%
- Faculty: 8%
- Other: 0%

Middle Campus

- Student: 40%
- Faculty: 55%
- Other: 5%

South Campus

- Student: 21%
- Faculty: 79%
- Other: 0%

Charts courtesy of Public Safety

Intramural Basketball

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<th>Wins</th>
<th>Losses</th>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaka</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>UG</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3-2</td>
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<td>HB</td>
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Division 2 Standings & Results

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<td>Skeez</td>
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<td>Fred</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>

Upcoming Games - Sunday, February 6th
- 7pm: Team Handball vs. Team Butts
- 8pm: Team Skeez vs. Team PBS
- 8pm: Team Frederick vs. Team Underground
- 9pm: Team Offensive Line vs. Team The Unknown’s
- 9pm: Team Shaka vs. Team Sobey
- 10pm: Team Miller vs. Team Football
- BYE: Team Flight Skool

Intramural Volleyball

IM Volleyball Schedule 2011

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<th>Date</th>
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Intramural Hockey

IM Hockey Standings

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NOTES: IM hockey kicked off the season with an offensive explosion, as the North Stars beat the Sqwids 14-9.

The three stars of the game:
- #3 Collin Lever, with 47 saves
- #2 Danielle Leonardo, for dealing with her North Star teammates
- #1 Nick D’Agostino, with too many goals & assists to count
By this point, most everyone in the world has either seen Toy Story 3 or read about how Pixar continues to monopolize the CGI industry. But for those of you who haven’t, I offer forth this review.

Toy Story 3 is Pixar’s eleventh feature-length film in fifteen years, and in all of those fifteen years, they have yet to make a bad movie. Some are better than others (I, for example, will take The Incredibles over Up), but to produce eleven movies along with a number of fantastic cinematic shorts that are all exciting, moving, and visually appealing is (dare I say it?) an incredible feat.

Like many teenagers and young adults, I grew up with Pixar. I’m pretty sure that my second trip to the movies was to see Toy Story with my dad and my sister, and with the exception of Ratatouille, I have seen every Pixar release in theaters.

But despite all this, I still maintained a small measure of skepticism when I learned that Pixar would be releasing Toy Story 3. I knew perfectly well that if anyone could avoid the Curse of the Sequel the Pixar team could, but what if this was motivated by the desire to capitalize on a lucrative franchise? What if the Toy Story 3 went the way of the Shrek movies, slowly deteriorating into a film more concerned with pretty special effects than story? But I should never have doubted Pixar. After seeing Toy Story 3 I am convinced that not only is it the best out of all the Toy Story movies, but it is also the best Pixar movie ever.

From there, the movie morphs into a thrilling film noir prison-break story as the toys try to get back to Andy, although they are thwarted by fellow toy, Lotso (Ned Beatty), and his day care minions. But by the end of the movie, the suspense dissipates and we are left with the final scene, where Andy gets to play with his toys one last time before driving off to college and leaving Woody and friends in the hands of a caring and imaginative three-year-old. I, myself, had tears rolling down my cheeks in the theater when I first saw Toy Story 3, and I have heard numerous stories that this final scene has made more than one grown man dissolve into tears.

But lest you start thinking that Pixar has abandoned the sheer entertainment from its earliest films, think again; Toy Story 3 is probably one of the funniest movies Pixar has ever made. The addition of Ken (Michael Keaton), Barbie’s romantic and slightly effeminate soul mate is a brilliant touch, and the toys’ escape from day care becomes hysterically funny when Mr. Potato Head becomes Mr. Tortilla Head. And after a harsh interrogation, Buzz is ultimately reprogrammed into a Spanish speaking and tango-dancing version of his former self. I have yet to meet a person who did not burst into delighted laughter when Woody grabs Buzz’s arm and says, “Come on, El Buzzo.”

So many of today’s CGI movies get so carried away with creating beautiful images that they forget that films are made to tell stories. Pixar has never forgotten this. On the one hand, Toy Story 3 features an engaging story line as the toys attempt to escape from Sunnyside. But on the other hand, it also follows the emotional story line of a group of toys who must deal with the prospect of their figurative (and literal!) demise; after all, what’s left for a toy when they’ve been discarded and forgotten? On top of all this, the visual effects are absolutely stunning and it is quite easy to forget that on the surface, Toy Story 3 is about a group of plastic objects. The fact that Pixar can transform toys into sentient beings that can make us both laugh and cry unabashedly is astounding.

Unfortunately, I don’t expect Toy Story to take home “Best Picture” at the Oscars, but the fact that it has been nominated speaks volumes about its strength not just as a kids movie, but as a piece of cinematic history. Toy Story 3 represents Pixar at the peak of its talents, and I can’t wait to see where they go from here.

Rating: 10/10
Talking Heads cover band puts on “killer” concert

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Everyone has at least one band they would give an arm and a leg to see perform live. I have several, and for most of them, I would need not only an arm and a leg, but also a vital organ or two. And let’s face it – even some of the best old guys who are still around (like Bob Dylan) just need to call it a day. But (like Bob Dylan) just guys who are still around even some of the best old but also a vital organ or only an arm and a leg, them, I would need not several, and for most of give an arm and a leg to

One of the best things

able to see them live, but I did get a chance to see This Must Be the Band, a Talking Heads cover band based out of Chicago. This Must Be the Band performed at the Mayne Stage in Rogers Park to a packed house of fans both young and old, all of them having one hell of a time. The band went on at 10 p.m. and played straight through until two in the morning. Lead singer, Charlie Otto, said, “It looks like we’re going to be playing all of the songs we know for you guys tonight,” after getting the go-ahead to continue playing after the venue was scheduled to close.

One of the best things

about This Must Be the Band was that all of the band members looked strikingly similar to the originals Talking Heads. Otto, in particular, had the eyes as Talking Heads lead singer, David Byrne, as well as the same unusual voice. There were others on stage as well, like backup vocalist and self proclaimed “dancing girl,” Kasey Foster, who had some wicked moves.

The band started off with “Take Me to the River” and ended with “Road to Nowhere” and, as Otto promised, they played every song I knew in between. “Psycho Killer,” “Slippery People,” and “Heaven” were the songs I thought they covered best, but they did a great job with everything. My one complaint is that they didn’t stick to the original songs as much as I would have liked. There was a lot of jam band improvising, which was good for what it was, but still not completely faithful to the Talking Heads.

Luckily, This Must Be the Band does an exact cover of Stop Making Sense every year, which is arguably the best concert movie ever made. Everyone should make an effort to go see them. You’ll know more of the songs than you’d think, but you’ll have an amazing time regardless. And until the Talking Heads announce a reunion tour, I’ll keep seeing This Must Be the Band – they’re nearly as good as the real thing.

Cultural diversity of the Latino community

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How does one define a Latino or Latina? The same question can be asked about any individual, but how can you characterize someone as white, black, Asian, or even Hispanic without a single consideration of ethnic and cultural background? The term Latino is a profound and complicated meaning that includes diverse and mixed racial and ethnic components.

A misconception persists that Latin America is a region of only Spanish-speaking peoples. However, the term Latino refers to people of various European ancestries.

The European ancestral diversity in Argentina, for example, primarily consists of Spanish and Italian heritage. Modern immigration contributed to a population growth of Germans, Irish, Welsh, Eastern Europeans and Jewish immigrants as well.

It is also important to include African, Asian, and indigenous backgrounds that influence culture, customs, tradition and language. Afro-Caribbean Latino groups, like Cubans, Dominicans, Haitians, Jamaicans and Puerto Ricans are predominantly mulatto groups, which blend European and African ancestry.

In music, traditional European elements, like the accordion, are combined with African percussion rhythms and beats to create dances and music, such as Merengue. Despite their common histories, which are mainly due to previous conquests and colonizations, the island states take pride in their idiosyncratic characteristics, whether it is food, dance, music or language.

Language is an important component that defines different Latino countries and their cultures. Haitians, for example, speak Creole, a language derived from French, while Brazilians speak Portuguese, and Mexicans speak Spanish. Amongst these languages, each country claims their own dialects and slang.

Afro-Caribbean peoples have much in common in speech and accent, yet there are subtle distinctions in slang that define each country’s ethnicity. The Mexican phrase, “buey,” the Argentinean phrase, “che,” and the Dominican phrase, “pariguayo,” are all different slang expressions, although they can be used as stereotypical labels for an individual person.

In addition, the Afro-Caribbean cutting of “r” and “s” in their accents create a different sound to the traditional Castilian Spanish instruction and verbiage.

But we must not forget the contributions of indigenous communities that have been preserved today. Pertaining to languages, for example, Quechua is spoken in certain areas of Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, and Colombia. Other less noted languages include Guaraní in Paraguay, and Nahua, Otomi and Totonaco in Mexico.

Asians are often not included in the triangular relationship that shaped Latin America and Latino culture today, although there is evidence that the Chinese crossed the Bering Strait and traveled through the Americas long before Christopher Columbus sailed the high seas to the wrong continent. Today, Brazil has one of the largest Asian populations in Latin America, specifically Chinese immigrants, although the Asian populations in other Latin American countries have increased as well.

The Asian cultural presence in Latin American countries is not new, but is noted more in today’s global society. In Costa Rica, Chinese engineers are building a new soccer stadium. Peru had a president named Alberto Fujimori throughout the 1990s. Fujimori was Japanese, but born he was born in Mirafl ores, a district of the Lima province.

It is nearly impossible to define the Latino culture. Latin America is a mosaic of cultures, languages, and diversity, which have all been thrown into the melting pot, thereby creating a more complex idea of what it means to be a Latin American, and what it means to be human.
Opinions

Perceiving the Egyptian revolution with American ideals

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Every day, reports come in from Egypt. As I write, the Egyptian government has offered protesters concessions of freedom of the press, release of their detained brethren, and has organized a committee to discuss further reforms. History is happening before our collective eyes.

There is a tendency to judge these events from our limited perspective. As an American, I tend to think in a constitutional democracy, western, individualistic kind of way. I acknowledge the failings of such philosophies, the continual inequalities and unfairness that remain despite ideals. But I also see them functioning without revolution for the past one hundred and fifty years.

Since the Civil War, the United States has been a whole, well-functioning nation. Despite volatile rhetoric, slow civil rights reform, and a willingness to turn on our neighbor due to his or her opinion, we have had fair elections, functional public establishments, a lack of abject poverty, and a loyal military for most of our nation’s short lifespan.

In Egypt, we see a people recognizing a faulty government. Douglas Adams called the Earth “mostly harmless,” which is an apt description of government and citizenry alike. In Tunisia, the corrupt, authoritarian government was causing much harm. After one shopkeeper immolated himself in protest, calling to mind classic Vietnam-protest imagery, his country came to this realization.

In Egypt, those who had long been trying to enact reform, saw this cultural shift toward rebellion and took hold. Egypt, too, has a government, Idolized in President Hosni Mubarak, that has done much harm. The common thread has now spread to Jordan and perhaps beyond.

It is, as I said, easy to apply our perspective to these events. Clearly, we liberals would say, the people of the government and the nation state, was necessary. We are tempted to push the revolutionaries along a road we have traveled, whether for humanist or economic benefit, for the good of the U.S., of Egypt, or of Tunisia, or some universal value we hold dear. The spirit of such support is good. It is brotherly. It is positive. But, it can reek of patronization and meddling.

After two wars that call to mind thoughts of colonialism and imperialism in their origins, it is good to be cautious and careful in opining about revolutions. I want Tunisia and Egypt to become happy and fair nations, both for their governments and people.

But I have not lived as a Tunisian, an Egyptian, or any of the various groups living in those regions. I do not know what everyone wants, and I certainly do not know what everyone needs.

Not that they’re asking me what to do. My red, cordless phone labeled “Egypt” has been inoperative for days. But I like to ruminate about just what this historic development means.

It means, I think, that those suffering in their homeland, those who truly endure what the Tea Party calls “tyranny,” will rise up and make a change. It puts our petty squabbles in perspective. And it gives me hope that the change that is made will be an improvement on, if not a perfecting of, one of the many harms of which Douglas Adams knew we are capable.

In defense of Kids, the movie’s quality as a subjective art form

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Several years ago, I took Introduction to Film Studies. On the first day of class, the professor asked for examples of our favorite films. I submitted that my personal favorite was the 1995 film Kids, to which another student responded, “That exploitive shock film about the kids who do nothing but f**k and drink and smoke and contract AIDS?” I reluctantly agreed, arguing only that the characters also briefly swim in a pool….

Well, after three years, I have carefully constructed my argument defending my original choice. That is, is Kids a film that is so ubiquitously depraved, so plotless, so lacking in dynamic or multifaceted characters, be, in my opinion, inducted into the canon of great films alongside Raging Bull, The Godfather, Part II, and the like? I will answer the question in two parts: addressing both the narrative and the aesthetic.

Narrative. Let me say, preemptively, that Kids’ greatness is not because of the blatant, shocking arrogance and lawlessness that appears as the film’s protagonists explore some marginalized corner of society’s youth. Crime and depravity are fascinating, but they alone do not turn substance into art. In fact, it is precisely the opposite that engenders the (artistic) meaning of this film. Kids makes no point, no moral judgments. Just as Telly and Casper are not immoral, nor amoral, so is the film. Kids is, as I previously alluded to, almost plotless.

This, while true, needs clarification. There is certainly a plot, but to understand the film through it is to miss the point. For, instead of acting as a storyteller, the camera acts as a witness. Each scene could be viewed alone without losing the richness, complexity, or ambiguous realism that makes Kids so poignant as a whole.

While a temporal sense of interconnectedness exists, no other paradigmatic narrative elements do: no hero’s journey type progressions, no rising and falling action (with the limited exception of Jenny’s attempt to find Telly), no conclusion whatsoever. The film progresses much as life progresses: randomly, chaotically, and without the underlying pull of the author’s inevitable intentions.

The film’s narrative meandering is epitomized when Casper rapes an unconscious Jenny, exhibiting his own unbounded power, exposing himself to HIV, and defining his life and death thenceforth. Yes, that sounds like a moralistic climax to the film, thereby refuting both my claims about a lack of plot and a lack of judgment. The scene, while at the end of the film, concludes nothing, resolves nothing; it is powerful, but not a climax.

More importantly, there is no less moral ambiguity in this scene than in the rest of the film. The viewer probably feels uncomfortable. He probably feels outrage and disgust, but the film does not. The scene is detached and callous. There is no music, no voice over, no upstanding character to which we can compare Casper. The dev

Aesthetic. Filmmakers, particularly in America, have become obsessed with plot. Film, for the average audience member, is entertainment. Moreover, it is a temporary escape, something in which to lose personal subjectivity, only to assume the subjectivity of the characters.

In this sense, film has ceased to be art. Even good film is often praised on its ability to consume to the viewer and produce catharsis. Art, on the other hand,
Amusing ourselves to death... or at least into impatience

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In the year 1985, Neil Postman published “Amusing Ourselves to Death.” It was his creed blasting the contemporary forms of communication. The core of his argument was that the ever-increasing role television was playing in the dissemination of ideas was bad. Television could not contain the depth necessary for intellectual discourse. Postman thought that television was chiefly responsible for America’s sound bite culture and decreased attention spans. In short, he believed that television allowed Americans to mistake entertainment for information. Postman passed away in 2003, and perhaps that makes him lucky. If Postman felt so strongly about television in 1985, one can only imagine how he would have felt about the Internet in 2011.

Postman may have been talking about television, but his words can easily be applied to the Internet. In fact, one cannot read his criticisms and not have the Internet in the back of his mind. And yet, Postman’s criticisms have not gained much ground in the mainstream. People laud the Internet for democratizing communication. But there is hardly any mention of Postman’s fears. Why? Perhaps it is too easy to dismiss it as elitist, posturing.

After all, television and internet have become so engrained in our culture that lamenting their presence is akin to spitting into the wind. What’s the point of arguing against them when there is no chance of them going away? I would argue that we are feeling the effects of the television/Internet age in even the most fundamental of ways; the coverage of a football game.

A couple weeks ago the Chicago Bears played the Green Bay Packers for the NFC Championship. At some point in the first half, Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler was hit and injured. He left early at halftime to meet with team doctors, but returned to play only one series before leaving the game for good. However, rather than return to the locker room, Cutler stood on the sidelines for the remainder of the game without the help of crutches. The Internet exploded with fans, athletes, and journalists questioning Cutler’s toughness. He was accused of leaving the game early because he was struggling. Word spread that he faked his injury---that he was a quitter.

Of course, hours after the game ended, multiple news outlets were reporting Cutler had torn his MCL and would undergo an MRI the following day to confirm the preliminary diagnosis. The next day the diagnosis was confirmed as a grade II MCL sprain.

However, at that point, it didn’t matter. Cutler was, in the minds of most Americans, a quitter. He became the brunt of jokes for late night talk show hosts and the subject of attack from sports commentators and fans alike. ESPN held an online poll that asked readers for the least likable quarterback in the NFL. Cutler garnered forty-four percent of the vote. It didn’t matter what the truth of the situation was, the Internet had made up its mind before the truth could even be found out.

It would be one thing if such indifference for the truth had come from fans. After all, the word “fan” derives from fanatic, so one can expect impulsive, unwise decisions. But, much of the vitriol came from journalists and sports analysts. Several highly respected sports journalists wrote pieces blasting Cutler’s toughness and desire, ignoring the facts of the situation. These are people from whom we expect wisdom. They’re supposed to be the smart ones. They didn’t have time to be smart, at least not in the age of the Internet. We have come to expect information now. We want it now even if it’s impossible to know at this very instant.

The Bears waited until after the game to release information regarding Cutler’s injury, but it was too late. We wanted information immediately and we got it.

Somewhere along the line, the ease at which we can procure information led to a change in our attitudes. Rather than wait for comprehensive coverage, we desired lots of information with little explanation. I believe this is tied to the rise of the Internet. We can Google anything and find answers instantaneously. We have become so conditioned to that immediate response that anything else is unsatisfactory. We would rather have wrong answers now, than right answers later.

People like to talk about the world and how it is complex. I suppose this might be true, but, at this point, we’re not even trying to understand. Postman was right. We’ve reached the point where even journalists are throwing stuff at walls and believing what sticks. Perhaps Postman was overstating things when he suggested we were amusing ourselves to death; to my knowledge, no one has died of amusement. But I can say with relative certainty, that we are amusing ourselves into impatience and short attention spans.
Madame Hatbroth supplement:  
The zodiac systems explained

SARAH BUSSELL  
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If only I had a dollar for every facebook status update I have seen in the last month with people freaking out about the “new” zodiac sign and “OMG I’m not a Scorpio anymore?!” Near New Years, news about a 13th zodiac sign, Ophiuchus, came about, and everyone freaked out about their sign changing. You tweeted and updated your facebook about how concerned you were and some of you even freaked out about the cute Gemini tattoo you have that you now feel you have to remove. Ok, now that it’s been a few weeks since the “news” came out, have you gotten it all out of your system? You have? Good. Now I can explain to you that all that freaking out was for nothing and there was nothing “new” about this “news” all along.

Astrologers have known for centuries there is not one, but two zodiac systems, and the so-called discovery of this new zodiac system is really just a mix-up of the two systems. The 12-sign zodiac system we almost all know as “the” zodiac is actually called the tropical zodiac and is followed by Western astrologers. The tropical zodiac is fixed to the seasons and is geocentric, which means it is based around the Earth and the conditions/environment within it.

The lesser-known Eastern zodiac system is called the sidereal zodiac and it is fixed to the constellations and is dependent upon the planetary alignment at the time of birth. This means that when the sun goes through the constellation Aquarius when a person is born, his or her sun sign is Aquarius. Astrologers have known this for a long, long time, and every once in awhile someone learns about the two systems, makes a big deal about it, and confuses many people. One reason this story became so big in the news lately is the recent findings by scientists that the Earth’s axis has shifted a certain amount of degrees, which then of course affects the Earth’s position in relation to the constellations. The “new” sign, Ophiuchus, has been added to the sidereal zodiac to stay current on the location of the Earth in relation to all the constellations, in conjunction with what these scientists have been reporting. However, the constellation Ophiuchus is not new and has not recently been “discovered” at all. And it in no way effects the tropical zodiac that us Westerners use.

The biggest reason the recent astrology news is so ridiculous, though, is that no matter which system you follow, your personal astrological profile is based upon when you were born and the conditions of the constellations and/or seasons at that precise moment. If you were born a mysterious Scorpio, you will always be a mysterious Scorpio. If you were born a stubborn Aries, you will always be a stubborn Aries. If you were born a spontaneous and freedom-loving Sagittarius, you will always be an ants-in-your-pants Sagittarius. So fret not about that wicked awesome zodiac tattoo you have been worried about; your zodiac sign is as permanently attached to you as that ink.

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Dear Sir and Madam,

I have recently acquired, through completely legal means, a bag of “rose petals.” In what capacity should I use this lovely and pungent bag’s contents?

- Lord Maleficent

Isaac: They’re only a bag of “rose petals;” it’s not like you found a bag of hundred dollar bills or a bag of condoms. Otherwise the rose petals symbolize something different depending on their color. Mainly they are given to one’s significant other, so if you have one give it to her/him.

Eileen: Aww such a sweet heart! I can only imagine that you mean that you have acquired the means to surprise that special someone on Valentine’s Day. Rose petals can always give a date that means to surprise that you have acquired, through imagination that you mean her/him.

With football ending and my beer supply also ending, what should I do to fill the sports-boozing gap in my life?

- New Horizons

Isaac: NBA? Football is gone and I have the same dilemma, so start watching the NBA playoffs and root for the underdog....

Eileen: Nothing will ever be the same as that time you spent boozing and watching football, so you should try some polar opposites to get you through this lull. Sit down and read a good book, catch up on your homework, join Art Club. The possibilities are endless.

I find myself with no offers of yet for the impending Valentine’s holiday. Should I go out on a limb and ask a stranger to dinner? Or should I just sit the night out along, nestled on my futon with a large bag of M & M’s?

- Lovely and Lonely

Isaac: It’s not only a cliche day, but it’s a day to make lonely people depressed and loved people possessed. But, since you asked for advice, I say ask your best friend to hang and be patient - someone will ask.

Eileen: I love romance and the unknown. If you have the courage, I say definitely go for it. If not, get some girls together and have a lonely hearts club, then you can cuddle up on your futon with your chocolate and watch a whole bunch of romantic comedies.

Isaac: My friends would say, “That’s dummnn.” I would say, if you desire it and that’s your dream, then don’t let anybody take that away from you. Start from scratch - something people would need or want. Or more specifically, think about what you think you would change if you had “...” in your life.

Eileen: Find a need and then cater to it, so says my roommate’s mother. I also suggest learning about computers, art, metal and wood working so that once you have an idea you can actually execute it and draft up a model or whatever you need to do.

Have a pressing question you want to ask the incomparable duo of Isaac and Eileen? Need advice about a social or academic ill? They would love to hear from you! Send them an e-mail at acostic@lakeforest.edu and newcoet@lakeforest.edu.

Assign yourself a clever nickname, or we can do it for you. If you would prefer to write a letter, submit it to the Stentor mailbox in the Gates center.

Isaac: It’s my destiny to be a part of the football team, so I will but I believe it is the actual act of such mass consumption which is leading to the problems with the environment. If you would really like to make an impact don’t hoard stuff or buy it for the sake of buying it. Do what you can for the world when you can.

In the last few weeks I’ve developed a desperate desire to invent something that will change humanity. Where should I start? How does one invent something so mind-blowing that it will earn commentary for the next century?

- Desperately Seeking Patents

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

Staff Editorial

The Stentor wishes you all congratulations:

You have survived The Chicago Blizzard of 2011 (aka: “The Snowpocalypse”) intact. We all enjoyed a nice snow-day free of classes and were sure to use the night before and the day of for catching up on our academics. (What else would 1,500 bored college students do?) We saw Mother Nature at her meanest (so bad was the weather that not even the Stentor could publish last week!), but we also had a chance to see our campus community at its best. Our beloved FacMan worked tirelessly to clear the walkways around campus; ARAMARK employees braved the weather and dangerous travel conditions to ensure our dining services continued to function when so much of the surrounding area was shut down. Students also took a much-appreciated break and enjoyed some winter camaraderie, playing snow-football, building snow-forts, and having snowball fights.

Throughout the rest of the week, many students could be seen trying to free their cars from the remnants of the record-breaking storm. FacMan continued to go above and beyond and was seen on the South Campus lot handing out shovels to all who needed them.

Our Managing Editor, Nate Butala, however, experienced a particular example of Lake Forest generosity and solidarity on a personal level: “Coming from the New Jersey Coast (note the non-use of the much-despised term Jersey Shore’), I am accustomed to relatively mild winters with infrequent snow. Ergo, I have little experience digging my car out of a snowstorm and have only driven a few times in the snow. Furthermore, I had never been stuck in snow before. So I was ill-prepared when I had to spend half an hour clearing the snow to get to my car. This is further evidenced by the fact that I didn’t even manage to complete such a seemingly simple task adequately: I got very stuck when backing-out, and hadn’t the slightest idea what to do. Convinced that Roberta (my beloved two-wheel-drive sedan) would be stuck halfway out of a parking space until springtime, I was ready to give up in despair.

“It was then that Aidan Price, a sophomore, appeared, ready to get into his neighboring car (which, unlike Roberta, has four-wheel-drive and is well-equipped for such instances of wintry precipitation) and head to his destination. However, he noticed my laughable attempts to free myself, and offered to help. Despite the fact that we had never met, he spent the next twenty minutes helping me push and steer my car free. It struck me then that we are all very lucky to go to Lake Forest College, for despite any faults one may identify with LFC, it is easy to find some help and kindness when needed.”

Aidan, and other students like him: The Stentor salutes you and thanks you. Together, we are a great student-body.

* Madame Helvetica Hafbroth, 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.
Handball team celebrates wins, looks forward to nationals

According to senior Biana Green, they have “had a great season so far, but what it comes down to is nationals,” which will be hosted at University of Arizona in the end of February.

Green seems optimistic about the potential for the team at nationals this coming year. Yet she doesn’t deny that it will be a tough and challenging tournament. Green spoke about how “this year [the team has] all the competition and hard schools back at nationals so we have to prove that we are the champions even more.”

However, with all the teams’ past success, it seems as though the handball team knows how much work is required to be a champion. Between 6 A.M. practices and individual work they put in time above and beyond what is required. The team is in for a tough national tournament, but after all the work the defending champions have dedicated to the sport, as well as their performance this past weekend, there is no doubt the other teams should watch out.

As the team played in the Indianapolis Tournament last weekend in Circle City, the length of the matches threatened to keep the Foresters in Indiana through Monday in order to complete play. As luck (or talent, perhaps) would have it, the finals in both the Men’s and Women’s doubles tournaments were all LFC players, giving the team the ability to complete play back home at the Sports Center.

The team as a whole was represented in the finals of all areas of the tournament, with junior Riley Kloss falling in a close match in the Men’s A Singles bracket (21-14, 14-21, 11-4). This represented the only Lake Forest defeat. Freshman Samantha Zender prevailed in all four of her matches to win the Women’s A Singles tournament, which included a victory of teammate Amalia DeSardi in the finals.

On Monday afternoon, the handball team gathered along with a few scattered spectators for a birds-eye view of finals play between Isaac Acosta and Pat Jarvis versus Nikolai Nahorniak and Victor Perez. Had it not been for the same uniforms they were wearing, one might have mistook the two teams for fierce rivals as tensions mounted high and the four best handball players in the nation squared off against one another.

However, despite the seemingly fierce competitiveness between the four players, much of it was done in a friendly manner as they embraced the opportunity to play against the same people they practice with on a regular basis. “Playing and competing against my teammates in the open finals was a great experience.” Nahorniak stated, adding that this was the first time in his four year career of playing handball at Lake Forest that he had gotten the opportunity to play against his teammates in the finals of the Indianapolis Tournament.

Nahorniak and Perez went on to defeat Acosta and Jarvis 21-14, 21-6. On the Women’s side, Emma Swanson and Ann Szaunbach emerged victorious over Bianca Greene and Samantha Zender 21-8, 21-5 to win the Women’s A Doubles Finals. The weekend was an admirable one for the Handball team for reasons extending beyond the victories on the court.

Head Coach Mike Dau referred to the team’s annual Indianapolis Tournament as “traditionally one of the highlights of our schedule. It’s the first of two overnight [trips], the other being the Collegiates,” adding that it “tends to bring a sense of camaraderie among the players.” Dau cited this year’s Indianapolis Tournament as being particularly strong with over 50 players from schools such as Michigan State and the University of Illinois in attendance along with the Foresters. “It gave our players a chance to measure themselves against the type of competition they will encounter at the National College Tournament,” Dau commented.

As for both the Men’s and Women’s tournaments being represented by Lake Forest players, Dau was pleased by the manner in which it represented the school’s program. “There is always a significant element of satisfaction when the finals in any division pairs two players from Lake Forest as it conveys the strength of the program.”

The Indianapolis Tournament served as any indication of what is to come for both the Men’s and Women’s Handball teams down the stretch, there is a strong possibility that yet another plaque will be hung in their honor in the Sports Center.

**Scoreboard**

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**Upcoming Events**

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<td>Illinois Handball Association</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2/11/11</td>
<td>2/12/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Tennis</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Forest</td>
<td>Monmouth (Ill.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lake Forest</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Monmouth (Ill.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wis.-Whitewater</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
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<td>Men’s Ice Hockey</td>
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<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Women’s Ice Hockey</td>
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<td>Milwaukee Engr.</td>
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<td>Lake Forest</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>2/10/11</td>
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**Photo courtesy of Goforesters.com.**

Senior Nikolai Nahorniak competes in the Illinois Handball Association Singles Tournament this past January.