Inside this week’s issue:

~ The enigma of Vivian Maier and her art...

~ Foresters Abroad
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“To me, bad taste is what entertainment is all about. If someone vomits watching one of my films, it’s like getting a standing ovation. But one must remember that there is such a thing as good bad taste and bad bad taste.” These words were spoken by the American icon John Waters, whose three decade career has constantly pushed the boundaries of filmmaking. Waters will come to campus on March 24, 2011 to deliver a keynote address titled “This Filthy World.” This lecture will be the culmination of the Lake Forest Literary Festival, which begins March 22nd. In anticipation of Waters’ keynote, seven of his films and shorts are being shown on campus throughout the coming months. Additionally, a small group of students are studying Water’s life and work in depth through the course “John Waters and American Culture,” taught by Professor Elizabeth Benacka.

Waters was born in 1946 in Baltimore, Maryland. All of Waters’ films have been set in his home city, and many of the people who inspired his characters were residents of real-world Baltimore. In the 1970s, he began to gain attention for his transgressive-cult films, such as Pink Flamingos. Later, he ventured into the main stream with films such as Hairspray. However, all his work explores “the American experience of trash culture” (according to the AMER 351 course description).

For readers who don’t know what trash culture is, Professor Benacka offered a quick lesson on what trash culture is saying: “Kitsch/trash culture is often discussed in terms of camp, which is a celebration of exaggerated style. Trash culture takes pleasure in showing the everyday objects, places and people normally found in lower class neighborhoods. This showcase enables audiences to either identify with the ‘kitsch’ displayed (e.g. dated clothes, tacky furniture and big hair) and/or feel superior to the people and their artifacts displayed in Waters’ film. Trash culture works on both levels, provoking a simultaneous attraction and revulsion. You might not want to see it, but you can’t look away when it is presented before you, much like stories about Lindsay Lohan”.

On the subject of the choice of Waters as the Keynote Speaker, festival co-chair Professor Davis Scheiderman explained, “John Waters has accomplished something rare in American film: he’s followed an idiosyncratic vision and made a success of his work, despite conventional wisdom. His films bring together so many strands of American culture, and they probe deeply into the nature of film itself as they also explore our deep desires, fears, and passions.” Probed further, Schneiderman went on to say that Waters is “a great model for the liberal arts college… because his particular vision is one of synthesis, of critical thinking, and idea exchange.”

The Literary Festival is a well established Lake Forest tradition, now in its seventh year. The Festival has always thought of literature and writing broadly, encompassing filmmaking and screenwriting. Still, it is not without the partnership of many parts of the campus that John Waters has been chosen as the Keynote Speaker. Scheidermann explained that “for Waters’ visit, the English Department is…partnering with American Studies, the Dean of Faculty, Alumni Development, Marketing and Communications… Student Government, the Artist-in Residence Committee, the Mojekwu Fund, and the Ruth Winter Lecture [Series]…too many to name.” Clearly, this is a campus-wide initiative.

Although the newly created Cinema Studies Program has not been directly involved in the planning of the John Waters Film Festival, it certainly stands to benefit from the numerous campus-wide events bringing attention to the art of cinema. The Cinema Studies minor was introduced this fall in response to student interest and the program has seen enormous success. The documentary film production course was expanded into two sections, and the required communications courses also saw significant increases in enrollment. The chair of the program, Professor Linda Horwitz, said that she would love to see a student-run film society on campus. She also hopes that interest in the student film festival will grow in years to come, and that “it will become one of those things students look forward to.”

Professor Benacka’s students stand to benefit greatly from her American Studies course on John Waters, and she is probably one of the most enthusiastic John Waters fans on campus. When asked about the creation of the course, she said, “When I was approached by Linda Horwitz about my interest in teaching this course, I thought she was joking. My background is in rhetoric and humor and I am a big fan of Waters’ movies. I was shocked that I would get paid to develop a course dedicated to Waters’ career. This was a moment where I felt like my education paid off!” Necessarily her course takes an interdisciplinary approach, studying Waters in both the microcosm and macrocosm of American culture, while incorporating methods of analysis such as film theory, humor theory, and queer theory. “His early work, like Pink Flamingos, is certainly filthy and difficult to watch at times, but he has remained consistent in his vision of the world and knowledge of what makes people laugh. By pushing the boundaries of taste, Waters prompts us to think about why certain cultural practices exist and whether they should continue,” she said. In the coming weeks, Benacka’s students will take a lead in the introduction of the film screenings on campus.

The John Waters Film Festival presents an opportunity for the entire campus to explore the making of an American icon and to take part in an event which is truly emblematic of what it means to attend a liberal arts college. The next screening, February 10th at 4:15pm in McCormick Auditorium, will be of the 1988 hit Hairspray. For a full festival schedule, check the Lake Forest College Calendar of Events or the posters around campus.
**Provisions on Demand comes to campus**

**KAYA CUPER**  
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As the tongue twister goes, “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”  
Well now you can also grab a pack of Swedish Fish, hummus, and a bag of Cheetos. Trying saying that three times fast. Luckily, because of the new convenience store, called Provisions on Demand, doing this may be a lot easier then saying it.

Provisions on Demand, or the P.O.D., opened the first day of the spring semester and has been filled with students returning from winter break. Students are spending their flex dollars for many snacks that are not all available at the school’s cafes. Jiyi Zhang, a freshman, admits that the P.O.D. is “convenient when you cannot attend breakfast, lunch, or dinner.” It can provide healthy substitutes for daily meals with fruits, veggies, and other goods.

Food is not the only thing this store can provide. The P.O.D., according to Sammi Zender, is “a great way to celebrate certain events as well.” Valentine’s Day is coming up and the store is filled with valentines and chocolates to send to family and friends. It also has raffles for events such as the Super Bowl. Students can participate to win a few prizes for their dorm rooms.

Instead of taking the time to go to a grocery store off campus, students like Lake Forest’s own Anthony Warren only have to take a five-minute walk to the P.O.D. Also, with a suggestion box made for students to inform the store of what they want, the P.O.D. has grown to have a large variety of produce to sell. The college has been developing ways to cater to students in new ways and this new addition is definitely one of them.

So the next time you pass by the P.O.D., like Peter Piper, go in and pick yourself up a peck of pickled peppers, or anything else.

**World Watch**

Compiled by  
Nelson Igunma (Co-News Editor)

- According to the Department of Education, only “one or two out of a hundred students” displayed mastery of science on nationwide tests. *(The New York Times)*
- Research published last Thursday in the magazine Science has determined that taking a test actually helps people learn and is better than most studying techniques. *(The New York Times)*
- A federal judge has declared a court emergency in Arizona to lengthen the amount it would take to bring criminal cases to trial in response to the increasing number of illegal immigration and drug smuggling cases in the state. *(The Wall Street Journal)*
- Jude Celestin, the presidential candidate for Haiti’s governing party, has withdrawn from the second round of voting. *(BBC News)*
- Jack Lang, the United Nations adviser on piracy, has proposed that “courts to prosecute pirates in the Somali enclaves of Somaliland and Puntland, and in Tanzania should be established.” *(BBC News)*
- Documents leaked to Middle Eastern news channel Al-Jazeera depict the discrepancy between the private and public faces of Palestinian negotiators during talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. *(BBC News)*

**Campus Watch**

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**Photos courtesy of Ariel Magidson**

Marie Soderbergh, junior, demonstrates the utility of the wall of dispensibles.
Foresters Abroad: Travels around the world

I participated in the ACM program in Costa Rica. I spent three weeks living with tuber farmers in rural Costa Rica (see the above photo), visited three national parks, traveled across both coasts and the northern border, attended rallies against the operation of an open-face mine in Las Crucitas (the mine was eventually shut down). I had classes that included presentations and performances by Costa Rica’s leading writers, actors, dancers, and playwrights. Generally I just had a smashing time.

Stuart Pearlman

I was in China last semester. I played rugby for two teams: the Beijing Aardvarks and the Beijing Brothers. The Beijing Brothers is a team of Pacific Islanders for whom I was playing when the photos were taken- I’m the bearded guy in the black and white jersey. I also spent some time in Shanghai visiting friends and seeing the World Expo. The other picture is of Tara, my girlfriend, and myself. Tara is not a Forester, but she traveled to China with me for the semester and enrolled in a different university nearby.

Dan Woodall

I was in the DC, Washington Semester Program for the fall semester. One of the biggest highlights of the program is the people I met. Despite being an off campus study program within the states, I met a huge variety of students from all across the world, especially Germans, Norwegians, French people, Colombians, Koreans and Japanese people. I actually learned how to speak a little bit of German! Although the program is only one semester long, I met friends who will be my lifelong friends.

Julie Khine
Madame Helvetica Hatbroth’s Horoscopes*

Aries (March 21-April 20): Go out and buy a lottery ticket, Aries; it’s your lucky week! I recommend numbers 6, 10, 37, 90, and 45 as a basis for your choices. It would also be an appropriate time for you to begin that novel you've been thinking about writing in the last month. Your pen will really flow once it hits the paper (yes, you must write it by hand for the luck to actually work), and you can expect to rocket to J.K. Rowling status in the next few months.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): Let’s talk about how you’ve been a real fool lately, Taurus. Don’t think I didn’t see you fall on your rear in the snow last night. Don’t worry – I’m the only one who did—but let it be a lesson learned. You’ve been walking on some slippery ice in your life lately, and it isn’t long before you take a spill and potentially miss out on some really good opportunities if you don’t get your business together.

Gemini (May 22-June 21): I see a new animal in your future, as soon as this weekend. Perhaps you’ll receive a call from home alerting you to a new dog, cat, or iguana. There’s also a chance you’ll pick up a fish this week. Or, maybe you’ll meet a real wild thang at the ACP this weekend. Either way, know that I am being purposely vague to heighten the suspense.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Your week will be phenomenal if you commence this weekend by watching Borat on Friday. (pause) NAHT! You’re pretty much set to have a great week, but only if you get all of your weekend’s homework done before you go out. Otherwise, you’ll be lagging behind as of Monday, and will have one of the worst weeks of your life.

Leo (July 23-August 21): Leos, I hope you're upset that your namesake, Leonardo DiCaprio, was snubbed by the Oscar Nomination Committee (?) this morning. I also hope that you noticed that, although Inception was nominated for Best Picture, it was flanked by some 10 or 11 other nominations, a ridiculous amount. This is the only week until the Oscars that you’ll have to actually do something about this. Call up the committee and complain. Tell them you are a LFC student and they will actually listen to you, having just googled the school and subsequently being impressed by the beauty of the campus.

Virgo (August 22-September 23): Bad news, Virgos. You’re going to flub on something big this week. It may be an exam, or it may be a form you were supposed to turn in on Monday but won’t remember until the following Monday. It might also be an errand you were supposed to run for a friend. I’m a big fan of suspense this week (read: Gemini).

Libra (September 24-October 23): The horoscope for Libra this week is especially fuzzy. I’m thinking that you will consume an entire pie tonight, and then will feel guilty because it didn’t actually belong to you. I recommend Zumba on Friday to up your self-esteem and dancing skills. Show off your skills at the ACP and you’ll wake up with four new numbers in your phone.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): Every time I look into my crystal ball for you, Scorpio, all that comes to mind is the Tim Burton remake of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. I’m not entirely sure what this means, but I think you should be wary of any chocolate rivers that you may stumble upon in your journeys this week. Also be alert for anyone who claims to be able to transmit you through some sort of TV.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 22): You will be thrilled to know that you, my fair Sagittarius, will be the first person to commercially time travel in the year 2035. From what I can see, you will choose to travel back to 750 BCE, in the hopes of finding out who the real Homer really is. While there you will participate in a ritual sacrifice of the first fruits.

Capricorn (December 23-January 20): It’s been a long week Capricorn, and Madame Helvetica knows this. Don’t fret! The upcoming week will be much better. That special someone who has been frustrated with you will see that you’re making a better effort, and all those late nights will pay off with more than decent grades. Also, look for a response from that contest you entered – you won!

Aquarius (January 21 – February 19): Happy birthday month(ish), Aquarius! The year ahead for you is teeing with steamy romance and pasta. Pick up a good romance novel in the next week and enjoy it, while also learning some tips for your upcoming adventures. You may also want to pick up some Cheez-Its, as I heard they’re flying off of the shelves.

Pisces (February 20- March 20): Your task, this week, dear Pisces, is to buy as many boxes and bags of Cheez-Its as you possibly can. I think it would be great fun to convince all Aquarius-es that there was a Cheez-It shortage and that the world was basically about to end as a result. Do this favor for Madame Helvetica, and you will all be rewarded with fantastic horoscopes for the upcoming week.

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* Madame Helvetica Hatbroth, 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.
NIKKI YEOMANS
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On Tuesday, Inception received seven nominations for the 83rd Academy Awards (most notably for Best Picture, Original Screenplay, and Cinematography). It was the third highest nominated film (behind twelve for The King’s Speech, ten for True Grit, and tied with The Social Network). On the Internet Movie Database (IMDb), Inception has been awarded nine out of ten stars by 289,496 voters. I’ve met less than a handful of people who “didn’t care” for the movie. So I get it – I’m out of the loop and should just shut up and watch the French films that only film snobs like me enjoy,” as my boyfriend would put it. But I’m not going to, because I have legitimate reasons for being upset with Inception.

When I went to see Inception this summer, I was excited to see a film that generated that much excitement. The previews were stunning, and I was sure the story line would be rich, inventive, and executed to perfection. After all, Inception was written, editing, screenplay, cinematography, and acting all add up to near perfection. If Christopher Nolan could pull this off in the second full-length film he ever directed, why couldn’t he pull this off for Inception?

I saw Inception again and directed by one of the greatest young directors of our time, Christopher Nolan. Of course, people know him from Batman Begins and The Dark Knight, but I am most fond of Memento, which showcases both his screenwriting and directing skills. For those of you who haven’t seen it, Memento is one of the most complicated and indescribably ambitious films ever. The directing, the other day and tried to grasp everything about it I didn’t like.

Right off the bat, there was too much going on with the film. Scenes cut back and forth from reality to dreams to dreams-within-dreams, and all of this was muddled by unexplained relationships between the characters, and a sense that everyone knew what was going on – everyone, that is, were all about complicated ideas and details, and then these things were set aside entirely until the last forty minutes of the film.

The middle of the film was mainly about character development and presentation of the philosophical questions that fueled the film. The concepts themselves are very cerebral and thought provoking, such as the concept of time, unknown levels of human thought, and the human relation to reality and dreams. But sadly, I found the dialogue to be superficial and unnatural. The acting itself was not particularly impressive, and I felt the actors to be uninvolved, especially given their caliber. Dominick Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) was very hard to relate to or empathize with despite his mounting problems, and the other characters were similarly uninteresting. And the editing was disastrous. So much time was spent on unimportant theatrical details and so little time was spent on the heart of the film, thereby wasting precious time. That was the most frustrating part of the movie because this film did have potential with some of its unique ideas.

I’ve found that as Nolan’s directorial career goes on, his films become more intent on affect than effect. I found Batman Begins (2005) to be much better than The Dark Knight (2008), and Memento (2000) to be much better than either of those. That, however, is another argument for another day.

But the problem with Inception, quite clearly, is me. I cannot suspend belief to enjoy an otherwise fine movie because I’m too stuck on the editing and the screenplay and how I think the director is selling out. I come in with too high of expectations and leave the theater holding on to far too many criticisms of which the average moviegoer lets go. So, Stentor readers, I’m getting off my soapbox and leaving Inception with you while I return to my beloved foreign films. Film snobs are better accepted over there, anyway.

**Inception’s flashy cinematic tricks fail to impress**

On Tuesday, January 25th, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences released the list of Oscar nominations for 2011. And in case you missed the list, the Stentor proudly presents this year’s list of “Best Picture” nominations.

As the Oscars approach, the Stentor writers will review each of the nominated films. (For the Social Network and Black Swan reviews, see the October 28th and January 20th Stentor issues, respectively. For the Inception review, see above.) We look forward to bringing you our comprehensive take on this important cultural event.

**Academy Awards 2011:**

**Best Picture Nominations**

![127 Hours](image1)

![Black Swan](image2)

![The Fighter](image3)

![Inception](image4)

![The Kids Are All Right](image5)

![The King’s Speech](image6)

![The Social Network](image7)

![Toy Story 3](image8)

![True Grit](image9)

![Winter’s Bone](image10)
The inspiring art and story of Vivian Maier

Vivian Maier. A Google search turned up an obituary, from only days before. Vivian Maier had only just died. Now, it was up to Maloof to piece together the story of her life and her art via her former employers and charges.

Maloof sought out the purchasers of the other boxes of negatives, and promptly bought the rest of the collection. In one of the boxes, he found an envelope from a photo lab with a name on it: Vivian Maier. A year and a half later, eighty of Maier’s prints are now on display at the Chicago Cultural Center. Despite the fact that she was an amateur without any real professional training or formal art education, her photographs are inspiring and very professional. Uniquely composed and well balanced, she captures a wide array of subject matter: Children, street scenes, buildings, even trash on occasion. The prints, however, are not only aesthetically pleasing; they also convey a wide range of emotion and are weighted with psychological and social depth. Children crying, women laughing, people sleeping. Rich women walking in fur coats, working class men sooty and grimy at the end of the day. Children dressed in their Sunday best, and poor children dressed in rags and playing in an alleyway. Additionally, her work has a nostalgic feel; the shots show the perceived calm of the 1950’s, the fashion and comfort of the 1960’s, and even the fashion mistakes of the 1970’s. The wide range of content Maier photographed is only amplified by the simple and juxtaposed way in which the photos are arranged side-by-side. In this way, the exhibition has succeeded in achieving what Maier hoped to: Chicago (and the world in general) is full of a variety of people and situations. One must only take the time and make the effort to be fully aware.

The enigma of Vivian Maier and her work is on display now through April 3 at the Chicago Cultural Center (across the street from the Cloud Gate), and admission is free!

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Recently, you may have heard some talk about a woman named Vivian Maier. Maier worked as a nanny in various North Shore towns from the mid 1950’s through the early 1990’s. What was so notable about this nanny that she deserves recognition in the New York Times, Chicago Magazine, and even a spot on Chicago Tonight? Maier was a photographer, and like many great artists, she was only recognized posthumously.

Maier has been described by the children she cared for as a real-life Mary Poppins. Charming yet opinionated, she was adventurous and cultured, born in New York City but having grown up in France, and she was intensely private. So private, in fact, that she managed to keep the well over 100,000 photographs she took a secret from her various employers and charges.

Her work was only discovered in 2007, and accidentally so. John Maloof, an aspiring real-estate agent, perused an auction house looking for documents and photographs of Northwest Chicago, about which he was collaborating on a book. Seeing a few negatives that were doubtlessly Chicago in nature, he bought the box of some 30,000 negatives for $400. While he did not find what he was hoping for (pictures depicting the architecture of Chicago’s northwest neighborhoods), what he did find was extraordinary: A plethora of street photography and candid shots, taken throughout the 1950’s through the 1970’s. While most of the photos are of Chicago, there are plenty from New York and some from places as exotic as Egypt and Bangkok. There are plenty of gems in this collection, but there was no name to be found anywhere. Though the photographs were clearly all taken by the same person – the style of the shots and the handwriting on the negatives were unique and consistent – the identity of this photographer extraordinaire remained a mystery.

Meanwhile, seeking critique and guidance on his find, Maloof turned to the blogosphere, posting some of Maier’s photos on Flickr. The flood of opinions, book offers, exhibition offers, and even documentary offers within twenty-four hours was enough to convince him that he had truly found something extraordinary.


Center photo is a self-portrait of the artist, taken sometime in the 1950’s.
Showroom of Compassion, showing its high and low points, track by track

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Cake’s Showroom of Compassion, the long awaited full length follow up to 2004’s Pressure Chief has not seemed to disappoint any loyal fans or newcomers… except for me. There are new tracks that I absolutely love, but I’ve found the album not quite perfect. Let’s go track by track.

The album kicks off with “Federal Funding:” which is a song with the typical Cake sound we’ve all come to know and love. It also has political undertones, which sort of eclipse the melody for me here. That half of the singing in the song is taken up by John McCrea warbling “maaaaaaan” is no mistake, I’m sure.

Also, why is his voice echoing? …because I’m pretty sure they’ve been publicizing how they recorded the whole album in their solar powered studio in Sacramento for seven years. Great trumpet work at the end, though, Vincent.

DiFiore displays why he and McCrea are the only remaining original members of the band.

We follow that up with the sort of secondary lead single off the album, “Long Time.” I love this song. I love the robotic voice back-vocals, a little trumpet side-bar, and plenty of hits on the vibraslap! (Side note: Word thinks vibraslap isn’t a word…Lame.) The notes are a little high for McCrea’s voice, but this song is fun otherwise. I do wish there had been more references to

ground, the fantastic Cake sound I’ve missed since ’04, and the awesome lyrics that McCrea penned. At first listen, it sounds like a song about boredom in a relationship, but if you listen more carefully, you find that it’s actually a song about enduring love through a “long time.” Well done here, gents; I could listen to it all day.

Next, is a cool little ballad called “Got to Move.” I was anticipating a dance track or something when I read the title. But I was surprised with a really nice song that I find myself singing as I walk around during the day. The song also is a bit of a departure from what I’ve been calling typical Cakey, which didn’t matter to me when I heard it because I was still reeling in ecstasy from “Long Time.” The distorted solo around 2:00 was a nice touch, and we get to hear a little of their always airtight vocal harmonies. What’s “Now is Now” comes after “Got to Move,” and I fell asleep.

I got some coffee and went to the next track, “Mustache Man” (“Wasted”). Started like a kick ass old Cake song, with McCrea mustaches though.

All right, here’s where we get a little more intense. The boys have put together a truly fantastic and melancholy instrumental track called Teenage Pregnancy. It truly gives one the sensation of sadness that they seem to want to invoke on the topic, and I’m okay with throwing in an acoustic track here and there. The song on Metallica’s Kill ’em All with the most plays on my iTunes is “Anesthesia” (“Pulling Teeth”), so like I said, I can appreciate it.

Moving on, the next song is the excellent Cakekastic hit, “Sick of You.” Songs like these are the reason I like Cake so much. But hang on… that guitar riff… seems familiar. Oh yeah, it sounds exactly like “The Distance.” I guess we can be happy that they’re ripping themselves off instead of somebody else. Check out Cracked.com’s article “The 5 Most Famous Musicians Who Are Thieving Bastards” for examples of ripping others off. Incredible stuff on that site, and a great way to not write your thesis, fellow seniors!

Next is a goofy tune called “Easy to Crash,” which reminds me of a combination of Guitar and Mr. Mastodon Farm. It gets going around 1:45 in the chorus, but lowers itself back down almost immediately and then picks up to a normal collection of instruments for the next verse. I honestly have no idea what this one’s about, though.

“Bound Away” follows, and it’s another Cake staple: the country ballad. This one holds tight due to great lyrics in the verses about being on the road and what is, for me, a really enjoyable melody.

If you like this one, check out “Sad Songs and Waltzes” on Fashion Nugget. “Winter” is next, and I’m always a sucker for a good winter-based song. I’m trying to ignore that they never have that rough of a winter in Sacramento, because I do like this ballad.

It needed a good vibraslap hit, if you ask me. I’ll pass.

The next song has a great title, “Italian Guy.” It’s one of the cooler songs I’ve heard lately, but it feels so unfinished! Maybe that’s why it’s great? McCrea recites an unrhyming poem he’s written about a guy he sees across a café with vague notes and violins in the background. It’s hilarious, and you can imagine the guy he describes, but the song is mostly instrumental. I would have loved more lyrics to go with such a cool song concept though.

The Cake’s album has its ups and downs, as most do these days. It would be hard to put together a whole album of fantastic songs, I’m sure. Some people have done it, but rarely.

However, the rarity with which quality albums come out these days is scary, so I recommend this one with gusto. Good music can be hard to come by, and the Cake members are always reliable producers of high quality stuff.

The real meaning of idiocracy

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I’m not sure the word “idiocracy” is really actually a word… at least not according to any legitimate reference source I’ve found. I had taken to using this word over the last few months after hearing it in a movie (of course, hearing it from a movie conveniently named “idiocracy”).

The movie went something like this: a guy who’s pretty much just like every other man in the U.S., is chosen for a government experiment. The experiment consists of him being put in hibernation for a hundred or so years until he wakes up being the smartest man in the U.S., because the U.S. population has grown less and less intelligent through the decades. The movie makes fun at the American public. Of course, the idea that a man who was before an “average Joe” could one hundred years from now be the smartest person in the nation is a pretty ridiculous, yet humorous, story to watch play out. The name of the movie, “Idiocracy,” seems to fit it pretty well.

So, between the movie and my own idea of what something sounding like “idiocracy” should be, I assumed it was a word that was what you got when you added foolishness with a group of people. Pretty much, I used it in the context of, “Wow, that wasn’t too smart. I feel like we’re being run by an idiocracy.”

When I looked the word up in Merriam Webster’s Dictionary and Thesaurus though, it didn’t exist. Even more, when I typed “idiocracy” into my word program on my computer, the nice little red line declaring I had misspelled a word popped up. In fact, there are seven different red lines crawling on my screen as I continue to type this.

But on my quest to find the real meaning of idiocracy, (if any at all) I went to the natural place to look when tested, revised, and edited dictionaries don’t have what you’re looking for…. The Urban Dictionary.com… of course. And I didn’t just find a definition for idiocracy; I found several different ones. They were all pretty similar, but my favorite two were “inbreeding of many rednecks,” (which doesn’t exactly fit my own definition of the word, but made me laugh), and “a nation incapable of recognizing or practicing common sense.” …Actually that exact definition said “a nation incapable of recognizing or practicing a common sense” (which ironically enough makes no sense at all since “common sense” really isn’t one thing that should have a singular article in front of it). But despite the misplaced a, I felt that this definition summed up my own idea of idiocracy pretty well.

However, the closest answer I think that I could find to display what idiocracy means, wasn’t even the definition that I found on Urban Dictionary. It was the example below the definition: “Most of the behavior described as entertainment on U.S. Television.” And perhaps that is why I decided to write about the meaning of idiocracy. After all, when I look at it in the context of most of what we celebrate and idolize, it seems to me that the term idiocracy is, more than anything else, a word that simply points out the meaninglessness of most of what we consider important in our country. We become ecstatic and hot headed over the most pointless ideas and
the word idiocracy

things on a daily basis. We have reality t-v shows that do nothing but show the mistakes and stupidity of other people who happen to be more famous than we are. Often, these people are only more famous than us for the sole reason that we enjoy hearing about their mistakes and absurdities, take Richie, Snookie, and Spears for example. I question whether Spears would be hitting the ample. I question whether

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greatest amount of their time

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that put the politicians?

But when I look at the word “idiocracy” and I look at the way our culture acts, it almost makes me wonder at times if we are, in fact, an idiocracy. If idiocracy really is “a nation incapable of common sense,” I think we all have to admit that our own could, in many ways, fit the made-up word. We glorify people who pay little, if any, contribution to our society. Then at the same time, we become so focused on the arguments raging in Washington with people hurling accusations and insults at each other from behind the party lines which separate whose on what side of the debate, that we don’t stop to ask if what’s being debated is worth all the angry noise, or if we even really know what’s being argued at all.

How much do most of us really know about the healthcare bill, outside of the fact that the democrats are for it and the republicans against it? I pay attention to the news, but I hear little more about it or any other item dividing the Right and Left in our government than how the democrats and republicans can’t come to any agreements.

When I consider the state our media and news are in as they follow the story of the last star who committed infidelity or got placed in prison, and I hear the reporters reporting the same things from Washington, just with a different bill on a different day, and when I take into account the movie that got this whole thought process started, I have to wonder if we really aren’t just celebrating something that could be defined by the reliable Urban Dictionary as “idiocracy.”

Paul Henne

how a skeptic can come to appreciate watching sports

Paul Henne

Columnist

hennepm@gmail.com

My name is Paul Henne, and I am from Connecticut. Connecticut lacks a lot of things that other states have. My state, for instance, does not have 1) highway tolls, 2) liquor sales on Sunday, 3) a ban on gay marriage, and 4) logical driving routes. Connecticut also lacks any major sports team.

We Nutmeggers, however, do not ignore sports altogether. One thing, for instance, that Connecticut does right is Women’s College Basketball. The UCONN Huskies had a ninety-game winning streak this year, and rarely, during the time that I have been alive, have they missed a championship game. Honestly, watching the UCONN woman is more entertaining for me than watching any professional sport (this statement does not imply that I’m significantly entertained by sports).

Living in Connecticut, with its dearth of professional sports, and growing up with just my mother, I never integrated sports entertainment into my life. In the past, I subscribed to arguments against sports like football. I, for instance, thought of sports as the opposite of the masses – inebriating people with mindless junk. Or I demeaned it by suggesting that football was a bunch of brutes butting heads, surrounded by dopier brutes writing large letters on themselves.

I even found ways to make football into elaborate conspiracy theories. For instance, the Patriots won the Super Bowl as the War on Terror got going, preceding the Iraq War. Not only did the patriotic Patriots win, but when they won, red, white, and blue confetti and fireworks filled the stadium. I, of course, thought that this was planned encouragement of nationalism. I rejected a lot of these theories in college.

Of course, all of these arguments were just obscure ways for me to deal with the fact that I feel left out when everyone watches football on Sunday and I have to watch a bad movie on TBS. The real problem is that when I came to college, I realized that football is a huge part of everyone’s lives… and I could care less about it. On Sundays, I noticed that my friends and most of the campus put on some sort of Jersey to watch games. From about noon until five, I am either bored or really productive with my logic homework.

So, I have tried watching football to fit in, but I cannot invest myself in it. Since I’m from Connecticut, I’m not invested in any major team. I, moreover, feel that if I just arbitrarily chose some team of which I do not share a location or school, then I will not feel the passion of the game. I guess I could just choose my favorite colored jersey – but even that is sort of ridiculous.

The truth is I feel left out and I’m trying to find a way to take part in the whole sports thing so that I have 1) something to do on Sunday, 2) alternative ways for trash-talking my friends, and 3) some new material for small talk (because rarely do people want to small talk about paradoxes).

I know that there are a few people reading this article who are probably from Connecticut or Rhode Island or Maine or Alaska. And I just want you to know that I have a solution to our problem. That’s right; I think I know how we can enjoy a football game and, thereby, get invited to viewing parties and eat chips and salsa.

One night, when I was ragging on football and sports-loving brutes, my friend started drunkenly mocking my pretentious denial of athletic competitions. In deriding me, he actually said some really interesting stuff. He started calling football a play – a brilliant tragedy – with Favre as the tragic hero. I was stunned. Of course, I did not believe all that nonsense – but he made a good point.

Football is what Nietzsche would call a Dionysian experience, in which a person is immersed in the crowd. While, of course, the football fans are not completely a part of the game itself, they – as a whole – are enraputted by the action. They often drunk-enly for extended periods of time and are brought into a community by contemporaneously drawing letters on themselves and eating greasy food. They are most obviously a part of a type of Dionysian experience.

But Nietzsche would not categorize American football with the Greek tragedies, for football is a heroic tragedy for the brutes and had hardly any Apollonian components – save the mass amount of technical rules (that I don’t understand) and the simple aesthetics. It is sort of funny that football should be considered more brutish than Greek tragedy, since in most Greek tragedies, someone murders a child, a character tears another to pieces, or the hero commits incestuous acts.

I think that by viewing the spectacular game of American football as a Dionysian tragedy, in which you are passively enraptured and entertained with the technical aspects of the tragedy, you – my snooty friend – can eat salsa on Sunday.

President’s Corner

Elise Beckman

Columnist

beckm@lakeforest.edu

As I spend the week sniffing and coughing in meetings and classes, I sincerely hope that none of you have caught this virus. But when I consider the fact that I probably contracted it from someone else on campus, my guess is that there are several more “sickies” out there. I offer my sincere condolences – being sick is incredibly inconvenient.

For me, fighting this nasty cold has had one advantage: I am actually forcing myself to sleep more. By sleeping more, I have come up with more ideas for Student Government.

I’m also reminded that I’m just one peg in the board, and that the world will go on without me when I am not operating at 110%. However, when I am, I know I can make an impact on campus (all of you can as well).

Being members of a smaller campus community provides us with enormous opportunities. If you don’t like something or you think of a better way to get things done, you can talk to someone about it. Our administrative heads are frequently seen “out and about” and I guarantee that they will be willing to talk to you. (Though, you should probably refrain from tracking them down if you’re sick).

I’ll keep this short and sweet this week. Just remember that you can make a positive change in the community that surrounds you! As for the “sickies” out there, make sure to drink lots of water and to wash your hands.

Stop by my office hours (Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 and Friday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Student Government Office) if you ever want to chat.
Ask Isaac and Eileen, with Isaac Acosta and Eileen Newcomer*

THE BEARS LOST!
What the f.... Okay, anger aside. What should I do now? Do I root for the Packers or the Steelers? Our destroyers or the league a-holes? Help!

-Distraught Fanboy

Isaac: Tough one man. Considering I’m biased due to the fact that I am a Jets fan, I would say Packers. Both the Bears and Jets had a good run, although they made mistakes when they shouldn’t have. I believe they played their heart out. ‘Til next year... but for now, let’s go Packers: it’s about time we get a new Superbowl Champ!

Eileen: Flip a coin. Heads Steelers, tails... well, the alternative. End of the day it really doesn’t matter. Just watch the super bowl and enjoy the new overpriced commercials which are supposed to be funny but have just gone downhill the past few years. And remember, if you start to think of yourself as “we lost,” realize that you are not on their team, nor have you ever been.

-I’m thinking about buying a new car. Should I buy American? -Puzzled Patriot

Isaac: With the gas prices going over the roof, I would say American equals no weekend getaways. Japanese and European cars shouldn’t be too bad, I personally would go for the hybrid if you’re willing to invest good money.

Eileen: Buy a hybrid or a used car. Go Green and all that. Realistically I believe that most energy efficient cars are foreign. Don’t quote me on that.

-So I’m thinking about getting a tattoo, but it’s just a thought and I’m not feeling creative. What do you think about the idea of getting one, and, if I should, where, and what should the tattoo be? What’s off limits? -Thoughtful Tatter

Isaac: Well lets see, I’ve always wanted a tattoo, one in my arm, and possibly my back. Just the thought of having it mean something is priceless. The problem is, when I’m 32 with kids running a business, I wouldn’t like the idea of having one. To be professional, you need to look professional. Tattoos have definitely crossed the minds of many and would say it’s been overlooked since the thought of permanency is mind blowing. My advice is, don’t get one if you can’t handle it being there forever.

Eileen: Well lets see, I’ve always wanted a tattoo, one in my arm, and possibly my back. Just the thought of having it mean something is priceless. The problem is, when I’m 32 with kids running a business, I wouldn’t like the idea of having one. To be professional, you need to look professional. Tattoos have definitely crossed the minds of many and would say it’s been overlooked since the thought of permanency is mind blowing. My advice is, don’t get one if you can’t handle it being there forever.

-I love to sing Justin Bieber and I’m obsessed. -Beiber basher

Isaac: I would personally say find new friends... enough said. Put on some headphones and jam with some Drake or David Guetta instead.

Eileen: Get into the Beibes. He was off my radar until one of my good friends dressed up as him for Halloween, it was priceless. I’ve been caught multiple times singing “baby baby baby oh.” Bottom line, he’s catchy. But seriously, your friends Need to come up with a different topic, he’s sixteen. Warn them they are taking steps to become the future Cougars of America. Also check out “Adam Lambert, Boys Like Girls, and Justin Bieber Handshake!!” on YouTube. I can still see the glitter.

-Cheers
To the brand new accessible, affordable, adorable P.O.D.!

JEERS
To all that fail to spend their every minute, or any minute considering and writing for this publication

(Probably) Coming Next Week...
• WHAT’S THE DEAL WITH RES LIFE?
• PROVOST CANDIDATES
• ONE OF THE BEST PICTURE NOMINEES: REVIEWED
• MORE SCINTILLATING ADVICE
• ENGAGING AND BRILLIANT OPINIONS
• INTRAMURAL AND FORESTER SPORTS

* Madame Helvetica Hatbroth, 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.
Women’s Basketball team visits Hawaii

NICK CANTOR
SPORTS EDITOR
cantons@lakeforest.edu

The Women’s Basketball team was able to escape the harsh Illinois winter weather with a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii over break. The team traveled to the Aloha state where they participated in the “Hoop ‘N Surf Classic” in which they faced-off against McMurray University (Texas) and California Lutheran University. The Foresters fought valiantly in both contests, but came up short in both, losing 73-67 to McMurray and 71-65 to Cal Lutheran. The losses, while disappointing for the team were both by single digit margins, as have all but one of their seven total losses this season, as sign that they have a legitimate chance of winning any game they play. Sam Schuring was named to the All Tournament Team as a result of her strong play, scoring 11 points in the game against McMurray and 14 against Cal Lutheran. Coach Tamlyn Tills mentioned Senior Emily Weber as another player who had success during the tournament. While the trip was primarily focused on the sport of basketball, the players and coaches got the opportunity to participate in certain local Hawaiian activities including Luau, snorkeling, surfing, catamaran, and the climbing of Diamond Head.

Back on campus as the second semester gets underway, the Foresters have recently begun their second round of Midwest Conference play for the season taking four of the seven games thus far against MWC opponents, including most recently a 75-63 victory at Ripon College. With an overall record of 7-7 and a 5-4 record within divisional play, the team is confident that her team can make the necessary push towards a strong finish. Tills points to the team’s growing experience as collegiate athletes, with ten of the fifteen players on the roster being underclassmen, as part of the reason the team has found themselves with an equal number of losses as victories. “Our losses (so far) have all been close which tells you we are hopefully going to peak at the right time” she noted. She added that seeing opponents for the second time this year during conference play will hopefully give them a better sense of what they need to do against them in order to emerge victorious. The team has lost to Carroll, St. Norbert, and Beloit in conference games so far this season, but will look to turn their luck around during future meetings with them. “This team works hard every day and if you do that good things will happen.”

Photo Courtesy of Tamlyn Tills

The Women’s Basketball Team and Coaches take time to enjoy the warm weather in Honolulu during the “Hoop ‘N Surf Classic.”

Intramural Basketball

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**Schedule (all games are on Thursdays)**

1/27/11

4:30 Ungvarsky vs Cepeda
5:15 FS United vs Latinos Unidos-Acosta
6:00 Latinos Unidos-Zuniga vs Team A
6:45 Golovich-Keie vs Breseman

2/3/11

4:30 Ungvarsky vs Team A
5:15 FS United vs Cepeda
6:00 Latinos Unidos-Zuniga vs Breseman
6:45 Golovich-Keie vs Latinos Unidos-Acosta

Intramural Soccer

Steven Yena team Team Lightswitch: 2-0-4
Scott William team Team Fire: 2-0-4
Jake Julius team Grass Fairies: 0-0-6
Puas Villagomez team FS United: 3-0-3
James Fosdok team The Penetrating Squash: 1-1-4
Bruno Messinge team Internationals: 3-0-3
Raul Ardelean team Slumdogs: 5-1-0
Nelson Dorvelo team Destroyers: 5-0-1
Miles Kerr team D.T.F.: 5-1-0
Alexi Spiratos team Baby P. w/ Aids: 5-0-1
Jacob Heaps team Miami Heaps: 1-1-4
Tommy Grogan team N.B.S.: 2-0-4

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The game may have ended in a scoreless tie, but on Sunday night at Alumni Memorial Ice Rink, everyone was a winner. Sunday January 23, 2011 marked the first annual “The Sleds Are Coming” event hosted by Lake Forest College. On a day in which professional football captured the focus of most people on campus with the Bears and Packers squaring off in an historical NFC Championship game, any concerns held by Athletic Director Jacqueline Slaats that the event would result in a low turnout were erased immediately. At 6pm, hundreds of students, faculty, and members of the community filled the stands to take part in an event that included the watching of, and in some people’s cases participation of the sport of Sled Hockey, in addition to participating in raffles and numerous contests.

Sled Hockey (called Sledge Hockey in other areas of the world) is a version of hockey for those with physical disabilities pertaining in large part to their legs and lower bodies that prevent them from participating in the sport in its traditional manner. Members of Sled Hockey teams each have a regulation size “sled” that they are seated in as a means of getting up and down the ice. Each player has two sticks with them that are used for both moving, passing, and shooting the puck. The sticks are curved on one end much like a regular hockey stick, but are different in that the other end of them is comprised of metal “teeth” (usually 6-8 of them) which are used for maneuvering and positioning. The sport shares many similarities to that of wheelchair basketball in which the rules of the game are largely the same, but different equipment and techniques are used by players.

The two teams participating in the game were both part of the same organization, the Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA), located here in Lake Forest, with the goal of giving those with physical disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in the sports they love who may have been prevented from doing so otherwise. The event was coordinated between the Athletic Department on Campus and GLASA in an attempt to both raise money and awareness of the organization in the area. The Students for Non-Alcoholic Programming (S.N.A.P) were also involved in the event, serving as sponsors for the “puck tossing” event which took place after the game. The initial game played between members of GLASA took place over two periods and resulted in a scoreless tie, with both sides being cheered on by everyone in attendance. Members of both the Men’s and Women’s Hockey teams on campus lent a helping hand by assisting players who needed it and offering words of support and encouragement. Recently retired and long time Men’s Hockey Coach Tony Fritz was also on hand to support the event.

Photo courtesy of Scott Sanford

A Referee keeps a close eye on the action between two Sled Hockey players from GLASA

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Sunday night was a social event as much as it was a sporting one. At the conclusion of the first game, students and faculty took their own turn in trying out the sport they had just watched as they went up against the players from GLASA. The difficulty many people had with mastering the basic fundamentals of the sport not only added to the GLASA players’ courage but the level of skill they have in doing what they do. Members of the Lake Forest Community while enjoying the difficulties many of their friends had on the ice, helped support the event in a more serious manner by giving donations that resulted in over $1,800 total. Numerous businesses in the area including Subway, Burger King, and Kiddles Sporting Goods, gave out free coupons for those who took part in the raffles. A long list of people ranging from the members of S.N.A.P to Athletic Director Slaats and many others in between were responsible for helping to raise awareness for the event and making sure it was a success. Cindy Housner, the Executive Director of GLASA expressed her gratitude towards the college for serving as the site for the first of what will hopefully become a long tradition of support, contribution, and entertainment. “GLASA was thrilled to partner with Lake Forest College and appreciates the wonderful support for the ‘Sleds Are Coming’ from students and faculty alike,” she said, adding “we look forward to future events and the involvement of the campus.” What made the Sled Hockey event most successful was that it was one in which people from all across the student body were participants in. At a school where the concept of community continues to be a growing one, the people involved and money raised on Sunday night helped create a visual representation of the great lengths the efforts of many can result in.

**Upcoming Events**

- **1/28/11**
  - Handball
  - Circle City
  - Indianapolis, IN

- **1/28/11**
  - Women’s Ice Hockey
  - Lake Forest
  - Wis.- Eau Claire
  - 7pm

- **1/28/11**
  - Men’s Ice Hockey
  - Lake Forest
  - Marian (Wis.)
  - 7pm

- **1/29/11**
  - Men’s Basketball
  - Lake Forest
  - Ripon
  - 6pm

- **1/29/11**
  - Women’s Basketball
  - Lake Forest
  - Northland
  - 1pm

- **1/29/11**
  - Swimming and Diving
  - Carroll
  - W: 88-24
  - M: 72-18

- **1/29/11**
  - Women’s Basketball
  - Lake Forest
  - Grinnell
  - 1pm