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Former Adjunct Professor Charges Age Discrimination

By Kristen Linsalata
News Editor

Irving Gerber, 87, a former adjunct professor of Education in the College of Education, Information and Technology, who taught Curriculum & Instruction for 13 years at LIU Post, filed a complaint with the New York Division of Human Rights on Nov. 10, 2014. Gerber claims that he was not assigned to any new sections for the Spring 2014 semester because of his age.

The university vehemently denies this claim of discrimination. "It is an unfounded/unsubstantiated allegation that the university would make any personnel decision based on age or any other discriminatory factor," said Gale Haynes, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Legal Counsel for LIU.

A contract for an adjunct professor is usually semester-to-semester on a work available basis, but Gerber is one of three adjunct professors who taught in the CEIT who believe they were discriminated against based on age. Gerber said that he, along with two other men, Brian Persky, 75, and Norman Goodman, 72, both former adjunct professors of Curriculum & Instruction, were the only three supervisors in the department that were fired.

"Why did [they] select
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Mandatory Assault Training for Students



JANISHA SANFORD

Associate Dean of Students, Jean Smith

By Caroline Ryan
Staff Writer

The Haven Course, a new online course in understanding sexual assault, is being required for both undergraduate and graduate students to complete for the spring 2015 semester. LIU Post has partnered with EverFi, the company that produces the Haven Course, to give students a comprehensive education on the controversial topic. An email was sent to students via their MyLIU email accounts in early February with instructions on how to complete the required course.

The Haven Course is an online assessment, which includes two parts. The course informs students about a number of important issues, such as the ethics of relationships, alcohol and its effect on relationships, consent, as well as both facts and myths related to sexual assault. The first part takes about 45-minutes, and then is required to be retaken a month later for 15-minutes.

Although the university has stated that the training is required, it is unclear what steps are being taken to enforce full compliance. LIU Post implemented this course in hopes of raising awareness about sexual assault on campus. It is more of a precaution than an issue that needs to be addressed, according to Jean Smith, the Associate Dean of Students. "The Haven course is a thoughtful educational program for adults committed to thinking about their life choices, and is an important part of our continued fight against sexual assault," Smith said.

While the goal of completing this course is to help students make well-informed decisions about serious issues, some feel differently. "I took it and it was common sense. There are some things that are in the course that we should have known since day one at Post," said Nathalie Souffrant, a senior Sociology
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News

Want to study abroad in Slovenia? Staff Writer Jeniel Terrero gives us the scoop.
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Features

Staff Writer Sana Zahra offers some words of wisdom about avoiding the debt trap.
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Opinions

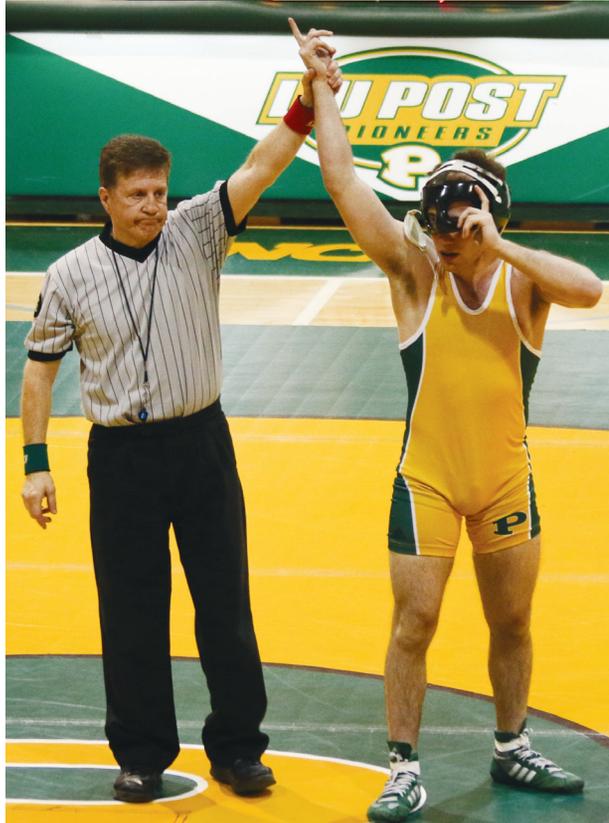
In this week's "Ten Odd Q's," Columnist Chloé Margulis introduces us to two PTC students.
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Arts

"50 Shades of Grey" hit the big screen this past weekend. Was it as good as the book?
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Pioneers Wrestle the Competition - 2/12/15 Match



Pictures by: Kimberly Toledo

Send your feedback to: liupostpioneer@gmail.com

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Assault training continued from page 1...

major. "This course should have been added to the College 101 Class."

The administration has implemented this course in order to educate people to make smart decisions, as well as raise awareness. LIU's main goal is to create a healthy and safe environment for everyone. Katherine Ahern, an Assistant Professor of English, felt positively about the new program. "I do think that increasing awareness and taking safety concerns seriously should always be important to any campus," Ahern said.

For more information about the course, students can contact Jean Anne Smith, the associate dean of students, at 516-299-2480/ jeanne.smith@liu.edu, or visit www.everfi.com.



EVERFI.COM

Smart Classrooms on Campus

By Carlo Valladares
Managing Editor

Thirty-five classrooms will be reconfigured as "smart classrooms" on campus, according to George Baroudi, LIU's Chief Information Officer. Currently, The J.M. Ladge Speech and Hearing Center contains a "Learning Center," a classroom that contains a projector that enables an enhanced learning experience, in room 125, which was installed last semester.

"[The school is] engaged in an initiative to keep LIU Post at the forefront of instructional technology by installing 'smart projectors.' These projectors interpret hand gestures through an advanced sensor near the lens that allows a user to manipulate images on the screen; in essence turning the projected area into a smart board display," Baroudi said. "Additional enhancements include new furniture, as well as wireless access points for each classroom."

This new technology differs from a smart board in that a smart board is an interactive white board, one that has become a staple in modern classrooms. A smart classroom will host numerous instructional technologies and online components.

"At LIU, we are introducing our own version of smart classrooms called 'Learning Spaces', which are designed to maximize the classroom experience by enhancing content delivery and fostering collaborative experiences," Baroudi added. "Our Learning Spaces will consist of touch-enabled Epson Ultra projectors that connect via wired or wireless connections to any mobile or desktop device." The new system includes a "smart source selector" with audio capabilities for the entire room. Powering all of this is a world-class datacenter that is monitored by LIU's IT team.

This initiative was brought to life after student and faculty feedback indicated that a revitalization of Post's classrooms was well overdue. "The classrooms feel dated," said Kaitlin Veygel, a junior Broadcasting major. "I feel like [the smart classrooms] take teaching to a new level."

"We are focusing on the most requested and most needed areas, so the priority is for the most heavily used classrooms. However, the goal is to upgrade every classroom over the next few years," Baroudi said.

Kim Mullins, an Assistant Professor and Instructional Design Librarian, feels the new classroom gadgets will be helpful if used correctly. "I embrace the use of educational technology, and am excited to have the ability to incorporate it in my teaching."

As a librarian who teaches research skills, a smart classroom allows me to model effective database searching and information access while students closely follow along on their computers," Mullins said. "The use of an interactive white board enhances student learning because I can zoom and highlight important information, and annotate the screen with class notes and comments."

The Learning Spaces are planned for Humanities, Pell Hall, Lorber Hall, the B. Davis Schwartz Memorial Library, and several other locations, according to Baroudi. Staff and faculty are expected to participate in training sessions before the smart classrooms are expected to be fully operational. The project is expected to be finished in three academic years.

TIA-MONA GREENE



Study Abroad Month: Summer Course In Slovenia



MELANIE SPINA

Students observe the many study abroad options offered through LIU Global

By Jeniel Terrero
Staff Writer

Professor Veronika Dolar of the Economics department is currently accepting applications for a two-week summer course titled, “The Transition Economies of Central Europe,” and, “The Former Soviet Union,” which will take place in Slovenia from July 1 through the 15.

Dolar, who is of Slovenian descent, said that she wants her students to grasp the concept of economic transition in a setting unknown to them. Studying abroad gives students the opportunity to get an education far beyond the classroom, according to Dolar. The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$5,530, which includes tuition (\$1,010 per credit), round trip airfare, and travel expenses.

Registration for the course, which has begun, will end on March 1. Students who participate in this course will see first hand how different government systems shape a country. “The course is about countries in transition, so when going to Slovenia, we’re going to focus on the changes that have occurred over the years,” Dolar said. “Its transition from a totalitarian regime to a free market economy is something that didn’t happen overnight, and something that is still being worked on [to] this day, which will be interesting to witness, especially doing in a very new and beautiful setting.”

For most of the trip, students will be staying in Velenje, Dolar’s hometown, which she said had a booming economy during the time that Slovenia belonged to Yugoslavia. During their stay, students will cover that topic, along with how the fall of Yugoslavia affected their booming economy. “We had a huge coal mining station, which was so important during the country’s development, but extremely bad for the environment. When we switched to the free market economy, we started to pay a lot more attention to the environment, so students will also see what kind of improvements have been done,” she said. Students

will witness the rebuilding of a power station right in Velenje, which, according to Dolar, is the biggest in the world and carries the most modern technology.

The description of the course (ECO 44), states that Economics prerequisites are not required, but Dolar recommends taking Microeconomics (ECO 10), or Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECO 11), if interested in the subject. “The course is really open to anyone. You don’t need a vast knowledge of economics because while being there, we will cover the many aspects of economics,” Dolar added. She wants students to participate in this program despite their majors or backgrounds, and believes the course will appeal to History, Political Science, Business Administration, International Relations, or Environmental Studies majors, since those are some of the other subjects that will also be covered in Slovenia.

As someone who was once an international student herself, Dolar said that she believes the course will be beneficial specifically for American students. “One of the reasons the university invests in international courses is to provide students the opportunity to gain a knowledge beyond their own culture. Slovenia in particular is a great country to experience this opportunity because it offers a mixture of backgrounds, and it’s also a safe country. When you go abroad, you analyze the improvements your own country can make, or the good things that your country offers that aren’t available elsewhere. Simply by going to another country, students will witness how they can evolve,” Dolar said.

There are many benefits for students who study abroad, according to Patricia Seaman, Director of Study Abroad at LIU Post. “It would be a long list to name them all,” she said. “But the general

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Age Discrimination continued from page 1...

the three of us, who are the oldest people [to terminate]?” Gerber asked. “The college did a disservice to the students because when they fired the oldest [in the department], they fired the three most experienced. They didn’t fire me based on merit because I’ve always gotten exemplary student reviews,” he said. Gerber added that he has always been a respected and recommended supervisor in the department of Curriculum & Instruction at Post. “I did more than just what was required of me,” he said. “It’s illegal and it’s immoral.”

“I have worked with Mr. Gerber for over the last several years at Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus, where he serves as a university supervisor,” said Dr. Karleen Goubeaud, former Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Student Teaching in the department of Curriculum & Instruction, in a 2005 letter recommending Gerber to be a candidate in the doctoral program. “I have known Mr. Gerber to be a conscientious professional who has a passion to help students develop into competent teachers. He is always professional in his responsibilities, and demonstrates an enthusiasm for teaching and learning.”

Gerber said that he was not assigned a section for the Spring 2014 semester based upon allegations that were misconstrued and “dishonest.” Gerber claims he was not assigned any classes because of an incident that occurred at a school in the Three Village Central School District where he once observed LIU Post’s student teachers. According to Robert Hannafin, the former dean of the College of Education, Information and Technology in a response to a grievance letter filed by Gerber’s union on March 4, 2014, Gerber walked through an unauthorized door at the school before the initial filing of the current complaint.

Gerber was also accused of calling the principal of Three Village Central School District an “idiot,” according to a Nov. 22, 2013 email sent to Gerber by Goubeaud. However, Gerber said that he has never met the principal of the school, and mentioned to the security guard of the school that it was “idiotic to have a parking lot at the entrance to the school and have nobody at the door to allow visitors, parents, etc. to get in.”

“Mr. Gerber has been a good colleague over the years, but this transgression compromised our relationship with the school and is unacceptable,” Hannafin said in the university’s response to the grievance. Ultimately Hannafin did not “find merit in Professor Gerber’s grievance,” according to the 2014 letter.

After Gerber’s grievance was declined, Gerber said that he filed a complaint with the Human Rights Division. Gerber said that, in denying him classes this semester, the school cited budget cuts, low enrollment, the fact that he was “banned” from the Three Village Central School District for allegedly calling the principal an idiot, and walking through an unauthorized door at the school in their response last month. Gerber denies these claims.

In support of his position, Gerber states that he has a letter from the superintendent of Three Village School District. “It was determined that you were not banned from the building,” said Cheryl Pedisich, the superintendent of Three Village School District schools, in the Oct. 6, 2014 letter to Gerber.

“When they get a complaint, [the administration doesn’t] even investigate it. They fired me without ever really investigating it or asking me. That’s very far from democracy. They just wanted some reason to get rid of me,” Gerber added.

Persky, like Gerber, feels as though he was unfairly terminated from his job at Post because of his age. “I was never given a reason [for being let go]. We found out by the secretary,” Persky said. “My experience teaching at LIU Post was very pleasurable. It was one of the best jobs that I’ve had,” she continued. “I was never questioned, I was promoted while I was at [LIU Post], and I was up for senior full professorship level for adjunct professors at the time I was let go. I didn’t realize that it was age discrimination until I found out who else they had let go.” Persky decided not to file any grievances with the local union,

but said that he is in support of Gerber if he goes through the motions of filing a lawsuit.

Robert Bennett, 66, an associate professor of Criminal Justice in the College of Liberal Arts, has a similar claim to Gerber and Persky. “I managed a budget for 20 of my 30-year career [before teaching at LIU Post],” said Bennett “It isn’t rocket science. There have been times where I had to wait to promote someone or budgets were cut. But these two men weren’t even told. They showed up one day and asked what class they were assigned to. They were told ‘we have nothing for you.’” Gerber, Persky, as well as himself, were treated as if they were disposable and without respect, according to Bennett.

Bennett taught 15 different course offerings on the graduate and undergraduate level during his 17 years at LIU. “I really loved the students,” said Bennett of the experience. He also mentioned he was three years from retiring when he was let go from his position, after he applied for a raise. Bennett filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), alleging that he was also discriminated due to his age, and is awaiting the outcome of the complaint.

The university has denied that age discrimination played a factor in any of these employment decisions. “LIU is committed to extending equal opportunity in employment to all qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of our academic community,” according to Haynes. “The university prides itself on the many forms of diversity embraced and respected by our students, staff, faculty, and community; including multiple perspectives on age, culture, ethnicity, geographic origin, and professional experience. LIU has a long history and ample evidence of treating all of its community members fairly. As it is against University policy to discuss personnel issues, we cannot comment on this specific case. Our [number one] priority is cultivating a productive, equal, and fair workplace environment that draws upon the talents and expertise of our dedicated faculty and staff.”

Students have expressed mixed feelings about hearing that the university is being accused of discriminating against professors because of their age. “I suppose [LIU Post] would only fire people for the greater good,” said Danielle Sposato, a junior English major. “However, I think that it should be up to the professor to decide as to whether or not they can continue teaching in their career, unless several students come forward to explain that they themselves feel the professor is inadequate.”

The Pioneer has reviewed copies of documents pertaining to Gerber’s complaint.



Former adjunct professor Irving Gerber

KRISTEN LINSALATA

Slovenia continued from page 4...

consensus is study abroad positively and unequivocally influences the career path, worldview, and self-confidence of students.”

Ileana Lado, a junior Psychology major, just returned from a semester abroad in London, which she says helped her become much more confident. “Studying abroad enabled me to learn so much more of myself that I wouldn’t have figured out if I didn’t participate in this program at this point of my life,” Lado said. “I believe that for any student, studying abroad [helps] to strengthen their values, beliefs, and embrace new concepts.”

If you have concerns about the long duration of a study abroad program for an entire semester, Lado supports joining a summer course as a good alternative, but with some caution. “Before doing my semester abroad, I contemplated on doing a summer course instead, but I discovered that financial aid [would] not cover my expenses if I did so, which I advise other student who want to sign up to keep in mind,” Lado said. However, because every student has a different case, it is important to contact Seaman to find out if you are eligible for financial assistance abroad.

A student who signs up for a full semester of Study Abroad will take 12-15 credits and will spend 15 weeks away from home in a different institution with different faculty. Students who register for the Slovenia

course will gain three credits in just two weeks. “In the case of the Slovenia course, it is one of the faculty-led Study Abroad courses. These courses are developed and led by LIU faculty,” Seaman said. “Because it’s faculty-led, I can guide students on learning or experiencing certain things that they probably won’t be able to do on their own,” Dolar added. “Although it only last 14 days, it’s a very intense course because you experience so many things in such a short time. This program is special because in a regular eco course, you can’t cover the things that students can witness and experience first hand as they are learning it.” The course will also include a day trip to Venice in a ferry from Piran, Slovenia.

The program is limited to 25 students, and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Some assignments will be handed out before the course begins, which Dolar recommends getting done before departing, that way it will not pile up, and students will get the opportunity to enjoy their time abroad. There will also be a project assigned that students will have a month to complete after returning.

For more information on the course, students can visit its site at <http://liuslovenia.weebly.com/>, or contact Veronika Dolar directly in the Economics department of Hoxie Hall. Students can also attend any of the Study Abroad Office information sessions, or reach Patricia Seaman in the Winnick House at 516-299-2508.

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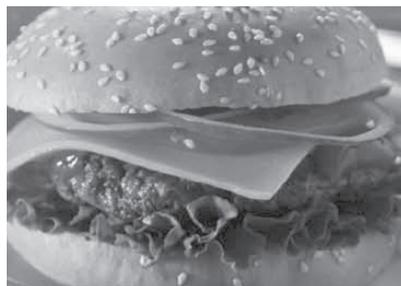
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New Student Magazine Planned

By **Melissa Colleary**
Staff Writer

A new student-run magazine called *WAVES* will debut in Fall 2015. The magazine, which is being launched by Phillip Aievoli, a freshman English major, is already accepting student submissions. Aievoli, in conjunction with Dr. John Lutz, chairperson of the English Department, as the club's faculty advisor, decided to reintroduce a student-run literary magazine on campus after the previous magazine, *Loomings*, lost popularity and disappeared from the campus's creative world in 2012.

The magazine will be for students and by students, but faculty, graduate students, and alumni may contribute. *WAVES* will join *The Bottom Line*, the monthly LIU Post student magazine, as a second student magazine on campus. *The Bottom Line* focuses on bringing stories about world news and current issues of interest to students, while *WAVES* will focus on exhibiting the creative talents of students.

"*Loomings* was originally a student literary magazine with a faculty advisor in the English Department. It became an art and literary magazine and then migrated to Student Life, where it was overseen by various people in Student Life roles," Lutz said. "It never really ended, but has had an intermittent life. As students graduate, it hasn't always had continuity in student leadership. Particularly after it left the English Department, it hasn't had a continuous existence because there hasn't been anyone to recruit new populations of students to work on it."

Much like *Loomings*, *WAVES* will be student-run, and will focus on campus art. This means that all writers, artists, and creative minds on campus will have another place to submit their creations, such as poetry, poems, nonfiction, fiction, narrative essays, comics, and anything else of that nature. *WAVES* will also utilize an online journal, as well as social media, to keep students engaged, all of which will be launched on the first day of the Fall 2015 semester. The website will feature pieces as collected, allowing for a steady stream of new content that will constantly be accessible. "Anything you do that you want people to see, submit it. The only thing I don't want [are things that are overdone]. It has to be creative and something from you, not replications of other artists," Aiveoli said.

The magazine will function as a club with a faculty advisor, and funding has still yet to be determined. "I'm not trying to make money," Aievoli said. "I'm trying to show off the campus talent that hides because they don't play sports or participate in Greek Life or other clubs." The actual cost of the magazine has not yet been decided, but it will most likely be sold for five to ten dollars as a way to fund printing and other costs. *The Bottom Line*, in contrast, is provided free for students.

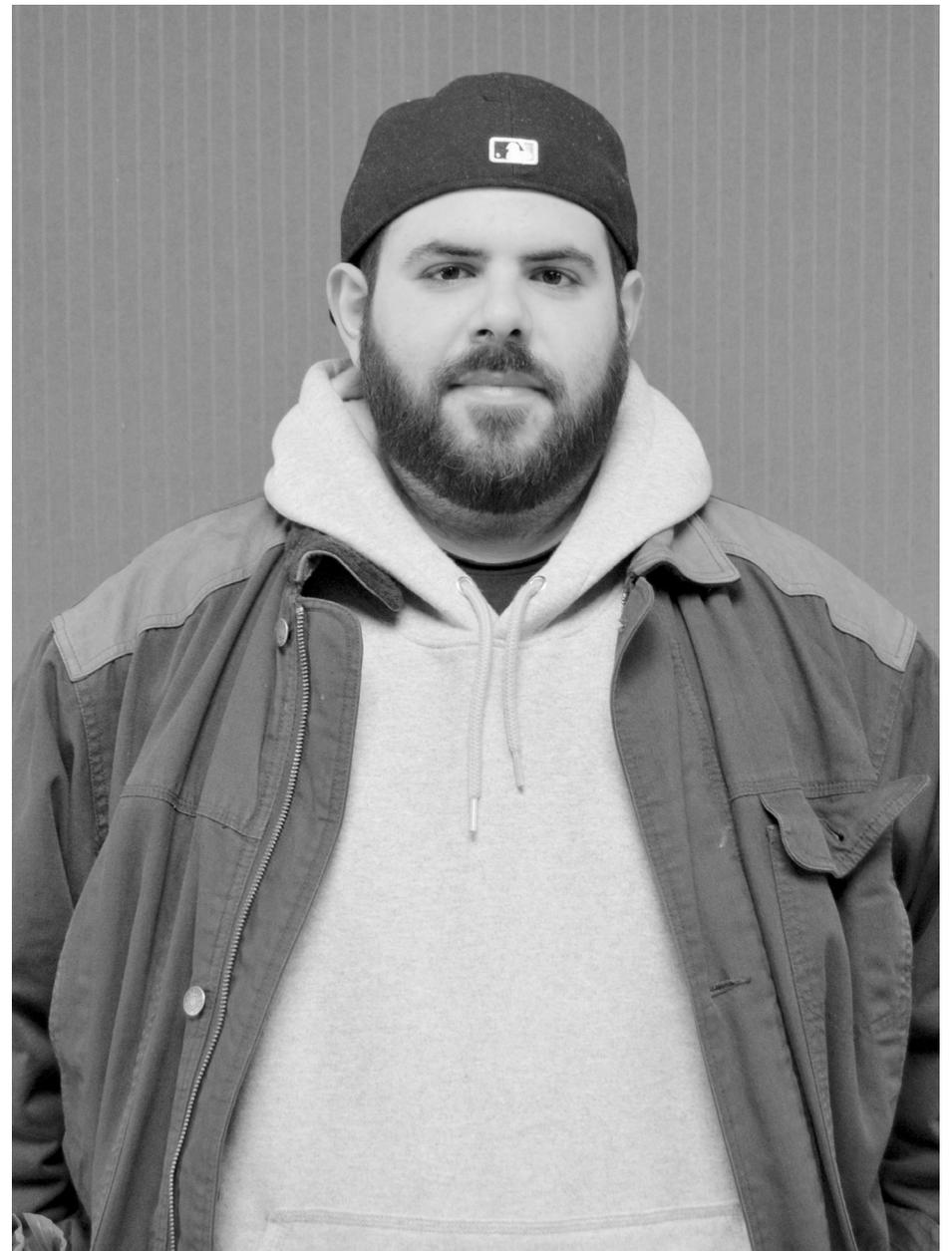
In addition to the website, the decision to work with the English department will help the magazine to gain more material, and maintain the magazine as students graduate and move on. "The English department will communicate with students in English classes and encourage them to become involved and submit poetry, short fiction, and art. A return to the faculty advising model will provide continuity from one year to the next and ensure that the magazine publishes issues regularly," Lutz said. With a steady stream of students in the English department increasingly taking creative writing courses that are offered, the hope is that students will continue the magazine while providing new content.

Because the magazine is in the early stages of development, it is unsure yet how many issues will be published per semester, particularly due to the strong focus on online journal access. Students are already excited about the prospect of a literary magazine coming to campus.

"I think a literary magazine is exactly what Post needs. It's a great idea because students will be able to express themselves while also showing their talents," said Ivette Mendoza, a freshman Criminal Justice major.

"I'm hoping to see student writing and art. We have many new creative writing courses in English, which could provide the source of many submissions. I'd also like to encourage students in any discipline to submit work or become involved with the magazine," Lutz said.

Students can begin submitting essays now, with the early submission deadline set for April 27, and the final submission date set for Aug. 11. For more information, students can contact either Phillip Aievoli at waves@gmail.com or Dr. Lutz at john.lutz@liu.edu, or just stop by the English office, room 210 of Winnick House.



JANISHA SANFORD

Phillip Aievoli, freshman English major, will spearhead the new literary magazine

Summer Honors Institutes to take place for prospective students



By **Katie Muller**
Staff Writer

The Institutes enroll high school seniors to give them a taste of college life before the decision process

LIU Post will offer Summer Honors Institutes for high school seniors to “pursue their passion and get a taste of college life.” This is the second time LIU is hosting this program, which runs from July 12 through the 17.

The high school students will live in the dorms while taking one of 16 courses, which include: Investigative Reporting, Creative Writing, Fashion Merchandising, Digital Game Design, Music, Cyber Forensics, and Equine Studies, among others. This opportunity is free for incoming high school seniors.

“The Summer Honors Institutes at LIU are intended for students who will become high school seniors in the fall, and allow them to pursue an area of interest/study on an LIU campus,” said Lori Knapp, LIU’s Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs. “LIU’s distinguished faculty will teach the Institutes, which are immersive, intensive, hands-on learning experiences that take place on one of the two residential campuses of LIU—LIU Post or LIU Brooklyn.”

Knapp explained what students can expect from the summer courses. In the “Music Biz Mash Up” course, students will study and perform standard chamber music repertoire coached by members of The Pierrot Consort, faculty at the LIU Post Chamber Music Festival, as well as special guest artists.

In “New York City: Creation On Every Corner,” students will visit museums, attend gallery lectures, and have the opportunity to examine “up close and personal” world-renowned works of art. Another Institute, “The Many Facets of Globalization,” will immerse students in the world of business, which includes a visit to Wall Street. Participants will also gain experience on a trading floor experience, and partake in experiential exercises with foreign exchange transactions.

The “In-Style: Fashion Merchandising” course will offer those interested in fashion merchandising the opportunity to select inventory for the student-run clothing boutique, The Student Body, and also get the opportunity to spend time with fashion leaders who manage and operate high-end outlets in NYC and Long Island’s Gold Coast,” Knapp said. If lunch and transportation are part of the Institute, then the university will provide it for students.

High school principals and guidance counselors will submit “student nominations for entry into SHI,” according to Knapp. Interested students are encouraged to reach out to their high schools and ask for a nomination. “Some of the SHIs require a student to submit a sample of work for review for admission, which is then evaluated by [the] faculty teaching th[ose] Institutes. In addition, a general mail invitation will be issued later in the spring, based on the availability of remaining seats in the Institutes,” Knapp said.

“These students are beginning to embark on that all-consuming process of college selection,” Glynis Pereyra, Assistant Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said. “If you think about it, an athlete can get a feel for an athletic program first-hand by watching the teams compete – athletic events are highly visible and accessible. Academic programs and a feel for campus life are much more difficult for people outside of our university to judge first-hand. The Institutes give LIU the chance to showcase the entire campus experience to prospective students.”

“A lot is packed into the short week that the students attend. There are some lectures, but most of the learning takes place through hands-on activities. In the CLAS institutes, there are, for example, laboratory experiences, mock crime scenes, writing exercises, and field trips,” Pereyra said.

Cara Gargano, chair of the Department of Theatre, Film, Dance and Arts Management and professor of Theatre and Dance, offered insight on the Musical Theatre SHI, entitled “Bound for Broadway,” which will be in its third session this summer. “The session is an intensive musical theatre ‘boot camp,’” she explained. “We typically accept 30 people who send in an audition to be selected. They are all high school students who will be entering their senior year in September. [Then], the participants spend the week learning music, choreography, and staging scenes from musicals.”

Gargano also said that past faculty included guest musical director, Kerry Prep, and Broadway veterans Rob Gallagher and David Hugo, all professors in the department. “David Hugo is our director of musical theatre program, and Rob and Kerry are both adjunct professors in our department,” she added.

Out of the 30 participants in the summer 2013 SHI, six chose to attend Post and eventually joined the department. “It is too soon to know whether or not anyone from summer 2014 will attend in the fall, but I do know that several have applied to our musical theatre program in the Department of Theatre, Film, Dance and Arts Management,” Gargano said.

“I think it is good for the school. It’s a really good way to draw [prospective students] in and give them a taste of what it’s to be like in college,” said T.J. Yatchum, a junior Computer Science major. Surprisingly, however, many students were unaware of the existence of the summer institutes.

While the SHIs are being led by one, or by more than one professor, current LIU Post students are also being hired to assist. “There may be some opportunities for [the] students [to help with the SHIs],” Knapp said. “But at this point in time, that level of detail has not yet been worked out.”

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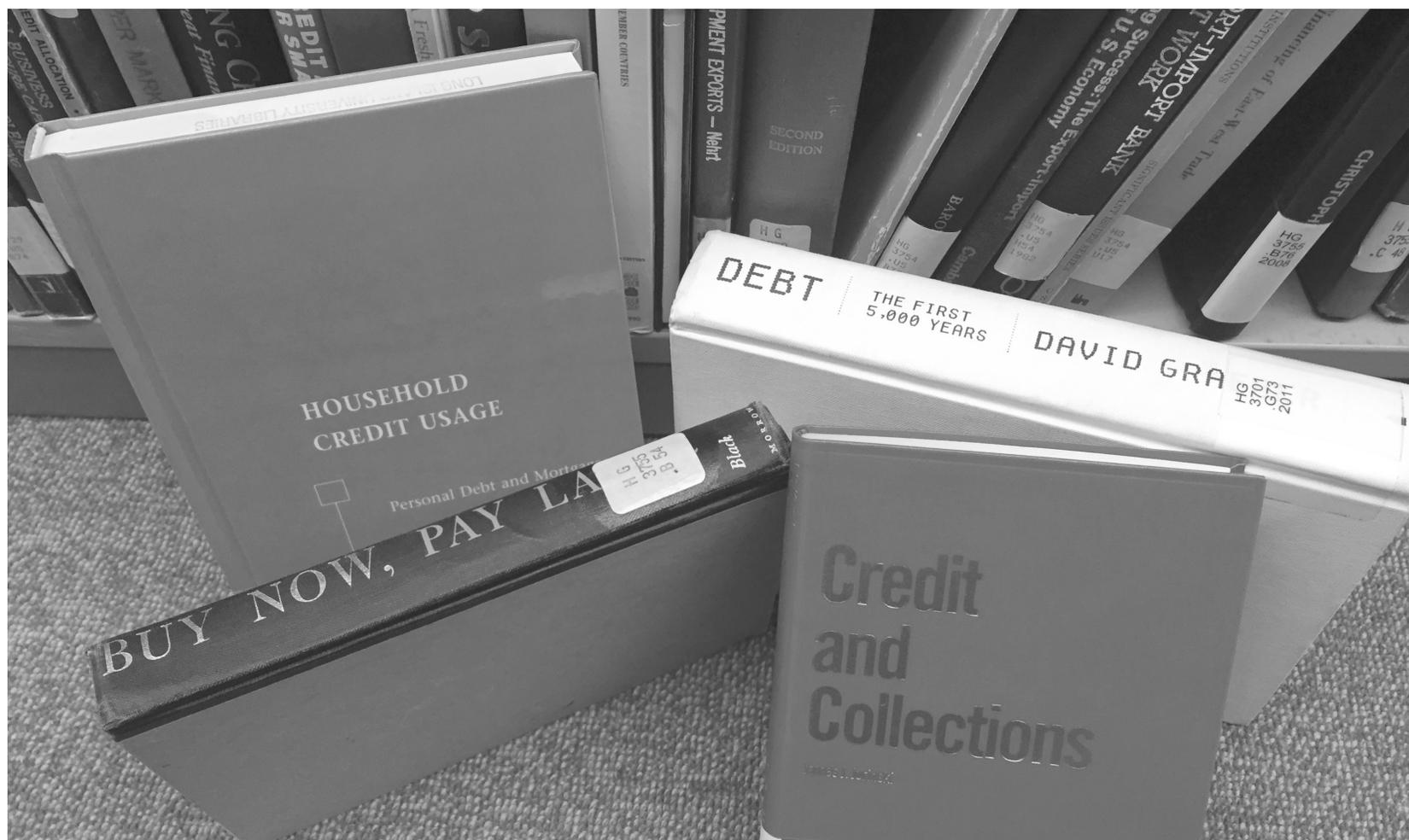
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Avoiding the Debt Trap



SANA ZAHRA

By Sana Zahra
Staff Writer

Isn't it fun to purchase items on a credit card? Well, shopping on a credit card is a lot of fun, until you get the bill. As a college student, one must be aware of the consequences of debt. Credit is an arrangement to receive cash, goods, or services today, and pay for them in the future. But not being able to pay back even one payment can affect your credit score.

"Debt is a trap, especially student debt, which is enormous, far larger than credit card debt. It's a trap for the rest of your life because the laws are designed so that you can't get out of it," said Noam Chomsky, an American linguist and political commentator, on how to avoid the economic pitfall.

We don't realize that every time we purchase on credit, we discount our future income. This is because credit is like using tomorrow's money today.

"Banks have this strange and irresponsible option you can fill out when getting your student debit card," said Johan Rundquist, a senior Economics major. "It basically says that the bank will let you exceed your existing funds on your debit card. But what is not mentioned at all during this process is what happens after you've exceeded your limits."

There are two types of debt: good debt and bad debt. Good debt can be loans for college education, or a mortgage to finance your home. It is an investment for the future. Whereas bad debt can be buying a brand new car, buying a \$400 bag, or charging that expensive dinner at a fancy restaurant to your plastic. These are expenses you can't usually afford.

Bad debt ties you into a situation where you must pay back the money you owe. For example, if you borrow \$100 with an annual interest of 18 percent and decide to pay a minimum payment of \$5 each

month, it would take you 24 months to pay back just that \$100, money that you might have spent getting a new haircut! Or, if you decided to pay a minimum of \$10 each month, it would still take you 11 months to get your balance back to zero.

It might not seem that bad, but did you know that having credit affects your credit score? A credit score is a scoring method ranging from 300-900 that forms the basic foundation of your credit report. Lenders look at these to determine the likelihood that the loan will be repaid to that person. It also predicts how one will repay a loan and if they'll make those payments on time.

Your credit report identifies personal information such as name, social security number, spouse, and employer. Credit history and public history are also mentioned in credit reports, and include detailed balance and payment information of credit accounts, bankruptcies, judgments, and tax liens. The information also includes a list of people who have received a copy of your credit report. This report is available for everyone, including creditors, landlords, employers, and the government.

Buying items on credit has become a trend, but not many people foresee the consequences. It's like buying things for which you don't have cash. As demonstrated in the example about borrowing \$100, even a small loan can take a good amount of time to be paid back.

One should be able to differentiate between what debt is good and what is not. Stay away from spending when you cannot afford the expense, because it is costly to escape the debt trap.

Dance Team Returns to Nationals

By Joseph Iemma
Staff Writer

While most students were taking a break from their schoolwork, the LIU Post Dance team took a trip to Nationals, which is the highest form of dance competition for Division II programs.

The Championships only features the top dance programs from across the country. In fact, only 27 schools earn the right to compete.

Perhaps the most grueling part of a rebuild is the time it takes to return to relevancy. Hours turn to weeks, weeks turn to months, and in the case of Post's dance program, months turned to years. What made this trip so special? It was a journey the team hadn't taken in almost five years. However, this January the final stage of the rebuild had been complete.

Five years ago, coaches Chris Klein and Angela Stanilewicz were brought to Post with a clear cut prerogative: revive and restore the dance program, and ultimately achieve the talent level to compete for a National Championship.

Klein and Stanilewicz are no strangers to success. Prior to taking their jobs at Post, they were members of the St. John's University dance program. During that time, the St. John's team had made themselves known as perennial attendees at the Division I Dance Nationals. To replicate that success within the Pioneers, Klein and Stanilewicz immediately changed the culture of the dance team, claiming the message of the group would be "all about growth and commitment."

"Every year, we have a main goal to achieve and we have put together a great track record so far," Klein said. The goal set for last year's team was to place within the top three at the Regional Championships in Massachusetts. Having proven themselves at regionals, the desire to compete on the national stage had quickly set in. Thus, with fire in their bellies, the team gathered last summer to set their sights on qualifying for this year's competition.

In order to qualify for Nationals, a dance team must receive a "superior trophy" at the LIU Post summer dance camp. This is no easy feat. However, Klein made qualifying for Nationals the team goal for the summer camp group, and, given the team's track record, one could only assume the team would do just that.

When asked if they received a trophy that summer, Klein simply replied, "We did," but this was only the beginning of the grueling journey to Nationals. The team met religiously three times a week, and performed at seasonal men's and women's sporting events for Pioneer home games, just to gain more repetitions.

With all this time together, unbreakable bonds and chemistry were formed on the team. Klein recalls specifically a two-week period in which the team practiced every day in a private studio located off campus in Syosset.

"This really helped bring our team closer together, and allowed us to become more dedicated," Klein said.

After countless hours of practice, the team had their routine down pat. Galvanized together, the Pioneers advanced to the semifinals, and finished 16th out of the 27 teams that made qualified for Nationals — just a mere two places short from advancing to the finals!

However, their valiant effort would not go unrecognized; the team rewarded itself with a trip to Walt Disney World, which ended a five-year national drought.

"Now we have a better idea of what to expect next year," said Brooke Eversman, a sophomore Psychology major. "And we can prepare much better."



ASHLEY IOVENO



ASHLEY IOVENO

Ten Odd Questions: *Students in Action: Cameron Clay and Tyler Stettler*

By **Chloé Margulis**
Staff Writer

Cameron Clay is a junior Musical Theatre major. Although he was a competitive swimmer growing up, he left the water for the stage in high school. The summer after high school graduation, he began his cirque arts training in the SkyGym Atlanta studio. In Fall 2012, Cameron moved to New York from Atlanta to attend LIU Post. After his freshman year, however, he left the university to pursue his passion for cirque arts, working a variety of jobs in order to train with Aerial Arts NYC. In September 2014, he returned to LIU Post to finish his bachelor's degree.

What made you start acrobatics?

I saw the Cirque du Soleil show *Mystère* in Las Vegas and was completely blown away. While I was watching, I kept thinking, "I could do that. I'm going to learn how to do that." When I got home from the trip, I found a training studio on the other side of Atlanta from me. After the introductory class, I was hooked.

What is a normal day of training like?

I'm lucky enough to learn from some trainers who have either been part of a Cirque du Soleil cast or have worked closely with the company. My main focus is aerial silks and static trapeze. When I was able to train regularly, I would alternate classes throughout the week starting with an hour of stretch and flexibility, followed by an hour or two of another class: silks, trapeze, or conditioning. Other aspects of training include being aware of what you eat throughout the day and listening to anything your body is telling you.

Which was your favorite Cirque show to be in?

I haven't been in a full cirque-only show yet. I performed at the Tilles Center Collage Concert in Spring 2013 and was able to use my silks in Post Theatre Company's *Big Love* last semester. Silks are basically the two fabrics that you have to climb up and do combinations with. There are two types: the hammock and the regular silk apparatus. The hammock is just one silk and it is easier because it is more stable. There are no cables or harnesses; you just have to hold on and tie foot knots to stay in, if need be.

Do you plan on doing freelance acrobatics on the side?

This skill is great because of its versatility. In recent years, there has been a surge of activity in the world of cirque arts. This means there are a lot more opportunities opening up for freelancing. I'm going to be pursuing this further after graduation.

What is your favorite 'trick'?

I love drops on the silks and my favorite is probably a variation of the double star drop with a hip key launch. Basically, you start all wrapped up at the top of the silks, leaning parallel to the ground, before launching yourself backwards into a fast, exciting drop.

What are your plans for the future?

It's hard to say exactly what will happen after graduation. I plan to audition as much as possible and will be training as I do so. Within the next few years, I plan to move to California and while I'm keeping my options open, I'm definitely keeping an eye on the Circus Center San Francisco cirque company.



MIA ISABELLA AGUIRRE

Cameron Clay, junior Musical Theatre major

How did you get involved with the Cirque?

I picked up on things quickly and discovered a passion for the art. When I started at LIU, I bought my own silks apparatus and brought it with me to keep up with it as much as possible. At the end of my first year at Post, I auditioned for the intensive program for Circus Warehouse in Queens and was given a spot, even though I was a novice compared to the other students. I planned to join the company soon after leaving school, but that was not meant to be and I'm very happy to have chosen the company I ended up with. I am currently with Aerial Arts NYC. I do stretch and flexibility classes, silk choreography classes, static trapeze, and some contortion classes. I am with this company mainly for training and seasonal showcases.

Who is your favorite acrobat, if you have one, and how has this person inspired you to become who you are today?

There are many acrobats I admire; one of my more recent favorites is Tom Ball. I draw inspiration from the storytelling in his work and the acting he incorporates into his performances.

Ten Odd Questions continued from page 12...

Tyler Stettler is a sophomore Music Theatre major from Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He always loved performing, including doing magic tricks, singing, and dancing, and knew he wanted to pursue it in his future. Tyler says LIU Post is the best choice for him because it gives him the most opportunities to pursue his dreams. Aside from performing, Tyler has been working to accomplish the “Walking Pull-ups,” after discovering them on social media. The Walking Pull-ups require all upper body and core strength, and look as if the person is walking through air.

What advice do you have for others who wish to accomplish the Walking Pull-Ups?

Any kind of advice I can give is practice and dedication. Without dedication, I don't think anything is possible.

How long did it take you to learn the Walking Pull-up and what did you do to learn it?

I have been working out a lot more diligently for the next production I am in at school, *Metamorphoses*, and it was just another exercise to add to my workout. I would just practice over and over again until I could get it. The same way I learned my other hobbies: ukulele and magic.

When did you start learning magic tricks and the ukulele?

I have always been very interested in magic and it has been a while since I tried to pick up some tricks again, but I've gotten back into it. As for the ukulele, I started playing at the beginning of my freshman year of college. I always loved the way a ukulele sounds and was always curious about playing one. I perform with it in school productions, such as *Big Love*.

What type of magic tricks do you perform?

I very much enjoy sleight-of-hand tricks, things that deal with coins, cards, or something random around the house.

Who inspired you to learn magic?

As a child, my grandma introduced me to Harry Houdini and he always amazed me with how perfect his tricks would be executed and how thought-provoking they were.

What is your favorite trick to do?

I have yet to use magic in a show. However, in my last production at school I was able to play the ukulele. It was really fun to be able to combine one of my fun hobbies with, I guess you could say, my serious hobby: performing in productions and shows.

If you woke up tomorrow and couldn't use your hands anymore, what would you do?

If I couldn't use my hands, I would still act. Some of the best performances in acting were characters that had no control over their bodies. Take “The Theory of Everything,” a movie released in 2014, for example. In the movie, Cambridge University student Stephen Hawking falls in love with fellow student Jane Wilde, despite his motor neuron disease. Actor Eddie Redmayne's portrayal of Stephen Hawking is magnificent, especially since, for half the movie, Eddie couldn't talk or move.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to graduate from LIU Post and continue my career as an actor, wherever that may take me. As long as I'm doing what I love to do, I'm really open for whatever the future may hold for me.



CHLOÉ MARGULIS

“ Without dedication, I don't think anything is possible. ”

-- Tyler Stettler

If you know a student or faculty member with an interesting and unusual talent or hobby, please email us at liupostpioneer@gmail.com. We'd like to profile them too!

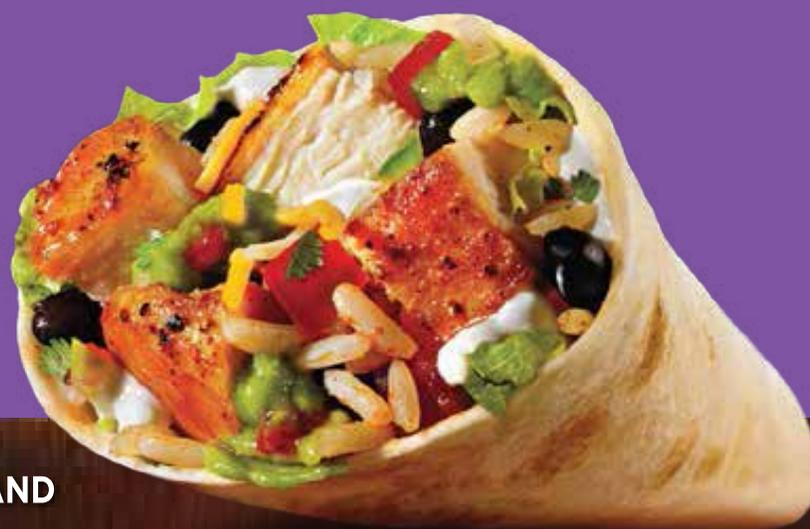


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Coping With The Weather?

By Harry Pearse

Staff writer

While I was watching my British news show, the reporter said in a flustered voice, “England has had flurries of snow all night!” My Mum told me it stopped after around 12 hours. As she said this, I couldn’t help but scowl while looking out of the window at the snow I have walked through for the past two weeks. I said to them, “yeah, still very snowy here in New York!”

While many of you may think of me as an old, scrawny Michael Caine, who says “Bah! Humbug!” you are wrong. In fact, I love the snow. The snowball fights, the crisp crunch of newly laid snow; it’s great. And the first and second day of snow even made the ‘exotic’ town of Hicksville a sight for sore eyes. However, this freeze and constant flurry of snow is now at the stage of ice and ‘slusk’ (like many of our Scandinavian friends may say), which are beginning to make the long walk home and through campus a very stressful voyage.

I am not alone. Ian Jonson, a freshman Undecided major from Sweden, hasn’t stopped complaining ever since the melting of snow began.

“I hate when the snow melts, slusk just gets everywhere!” Jonson said. For the first time, I would probably agree with a Swede!

Being an international student from England, I am not used to the severity of the snow here in New York, or the briskness of the cold. It’s nuts! I guess the Swedes and the overwhelming number of Norwegians are all used to this (because they live in igloos and have coats made out of yetis, right?). But, overseas students from China, India, South America, and also England, are at a disadvantage. While they are still settling in with the move from home, and not having their friends and parents nearby, they are compelled to join forces with the winter freeze of New York. It can really make you feel homesick.

So, how do we deal with our first snowy and arctic weather experience here in N.Y.? Well, a pair of boots. These are essential: great in the snow to get through it safely, as well as having the grip to sustain the killer instinct of ice, preventing an embarrassing and frankly dangerous fall; obviously a bear-like coat, which keeps the warmth in; a bobble hat is also very useful in this penetrating subzero weather. Another thing that has become an excellent addition to my ‘winter collection’ is a snood! All of the Scandinavians — which I claim are my friends but who probably can’t stand the sight of me — have these amazing cold repellent garments. I definitely recommend a **snood****! And, of course, although Valentine’s Day has passed, you can always get a companion who likes to cuddle and use them as warmth!

****snood** -- noun

1. an ornamental hairnet or fabric bag worn over the hair at the back of a woman’s head.
2. a wide ring of knitted material worn as a hood or scarf



HARRY PEARSE

The New Freshman Class

By Julian Wilson

Assistant Opinions Editor

For students who've been attending LIU Post for a while, the commute around campus can be an easy one, once you get used to it. However, what about the students who are adjusting to their new ground?

With winter break over, a new spring semester is upon us, and this year's freshman class is just starting to learn its way around. Given the faulty circumstances of bad weather and delayed openings, how do the current freshmen feel about Post?

Radiology major Sarah Kang is truly having a great time at Post with all that the university has to offer. "The first half of my year was fun, especially since I was on the soccer team. It always made my day busy, and I'm looking forward to finishing this semester with a decent GPA," Kang said.

The same goes for Business Management major Abraham Orenstein, who seconds Kang's notion of positive vibes and good times. "I met all sorts of people and have awesome friends. I'm looking forward to hanging with my friends again, [but am] not looking forward to taking Spanish class, which I struggle with," Orenstein said.

"My favorite thing to do at Post is to hang out with my friends in the rec room," Orenstein added. "We play all sorts of card games, like 'Magic, the Gathering' and 'Hearthstone.'"

Academically, Orenstein also favors the tutoring center, as it helps him do better in classes that he struggles with.

Kang, on the other hand, takes pride and fun in our Athletics Department and the teams that make it all happen, the Pioneers.

"My favorite things about Post are the sports games, and how exciting they can get," she said, revealing that her most highlighted moment came with her fellow soccer team members when they qualified for the NCAA tournament.

Unlike Kang, Orenstein doesn't necessarily have a single, highlighted moment, but he does have something important to say.

"My least favorite things about Post are mainly the hours of all the food places on campus," Orenstein said. "I used to eat dinner late, but Winnick closes so early, especially on the weekends."

As for me, personally, I remember freshman year like it was yesterday. From day one, I sensed a great community vibe, and everyone was really friendly and willing to help. I had great professors, great friends, and great experiences. For the entire new freshman this year, I have this to say: be sure to have fun, and enjoy every moment that you can. However, at the same time, don't be afraid to ask for help, because there will always be someone there for you.

Are you a freshman for the 2015 academic semester, welcome to Post! If not, then welcome back! If you have any suggestions or comments for *The Pioneer*, your campus newspaper, please email us at liupostpioneer@gmail.com.



Students Respond to Haven Course on Prevention Training

By Julian Wilson

Assistant Opinions Editor

On Feb. 2, 2015, the university issued a mass-email to all Post students, stating that every student, regardless of academic year or major, would have to take a newly-constructed, mandatory online course on sexual assault prevention.

The Haven online course is the result of a partnership between Long Island University and EverFi, “which helps students develop critical life skills such as alcohol abuse prevention, sexual assault prevention, and financial literacy across the country.”

The course was made easily accessible to students, through their ‘My LIU’ accounts, the same day it was announced via email. Due dates for both sections of the course (Feb. 24 and April 14), were posted in the notice, along with a ‘passing exam score,’ which is the minimum-grade that students would ultimately need to pass the online course.

John DiMartino, a senior Information Technology Management major, believes the course is unnecessary in the long run.

“This online course was poorly formulated,” DiMartino said. “[It] does nothing to teach anyone any information that they didn’t already know, or that they could have looked up in a textbook or online source.”

DiMartino also commented on the subject matter and content of the course, admitting that sexual assault is a topic that rightfully should be addressed. However, he said that holding an online course is not the way to do it.

“I don’t think a course is the way to go about addressing this issue,” DiMartino said. “[It] and would be better served in a lecture-based presentation that people can go to without being graded. More people would take it seriously in this manner, and would benefit more to learning the facts than taking an online course that isn’t well put together in the first place.”

Senior Digital Arts major Gerard Gilmartin agrees with DiMartino.

“This course they made seems just random, and out of the blue,” Gilmartin said. “Not only for me, but for other students, as well. Not many students are going to have much time, because a good amount of students have projects for their own individual classes and midterms are coming up.”

Like DiMartino, Gilmartin believes in other ways of spreading awareness of serious subjects on campus, suggesting that inviting a guest speaker during common hour, or simply handing out information via handouts are better methods.

I agree with DiMartino and Gilmartin. Upon receiving the email, I was very confused at first. However, after reading it thoroughly and analyzing it, I found it a little unnecessary, but more so, rather abrupt and impromptu. I believe it was an unfair decision to send out the email a little while before midterm exams, because it decreased the chances of a student to be able to properly prepare for it.

If you’re a student and have any questions about the online course, you can contact Jean Anne Smith, LIU Post’s associate dean of students, at her LIU email, jeanne.smith@liu.edu.



ALYSSA SEIDMAN

“*I feel that if there is a mandatory requirement [for all students], it shouldn’t be emailed to us since we get so many emails a day; it could get easily overlooked.*”

-- Elizabeth Panzica, junior Art Therapy major

Poetry Center Hosts First Reading

By Bendik Soerensen

Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

"I was driving stick in a green VW Beetle," read one of the poems, during one of the Poetry Center's frequent readings on Feb. 11. Susana H. Case and Anthony DiMatteo, professors respectively of Behavioral Sciences and English at NYIT, were the poets featured in the first reading of the semester. Their subjects were varied; from travel, to marriage, and rock-and-roll.

The event started with Case reading from several of her publications, the latest being "4 Rms W Vu," mainly touching the subject of human interactions and relationships. Her poem used a New York City apartment and its different rooms as metaphors; for instance, the storage room as a metaphor for memories. "Be my abode. My foundation wall. Mud block and concrete node-press," read one of Case's poems.

DiMatteo, a Pushcart Prize nominee and publisher of several chapbooks (collections of poems), started his session with a rap-inspired poem about cupid, inspired by the approach of Valentine's Day. DiMatteo's works have been featured in several publications, including *College Literature*, *Avatar Poetry Review*, and *The Cortland Review*. His latest book, published on Jan. 29, of last year, is called *Beautiful Poems*, and has received positive reviews from critics.

The Poetry Center, a part of the English Department, has several more poetry readings planned for the spring semester, which is listed at the bottom. Dr. Joan Digby, director of the Honors College and a professor of English, stated that the readings this spring will be full of nationalities and cultures from all around the world, including "A Celebration of Chinese New Year" on Feb. 19, where Leslie Bai, a fellow English professor and translator of Chinese classical poetry, will read and hold a workshop related to the celebration. In March there are two readings, which will feature poets from Japan, India, Trinidad, and Long Island.

The Poetry Center is also having a competition, in collaboration with the English Department. Students and alumni are encouraged to submit poetry and short fiction stories. There are several categories, including graduate student and alumni, with prizes in each of the categories. This is the 49th Annual Poetry and Fiction Contest. The deadline is Feb. 24. For rules and more info, contact Professor Digby at Joan.Digby@liu.edu. The winners will be announced on the 47th annual Poetry Awards Night, where there are readings and the winners are praised, on April 14.

For more information about the Poetry Center and its upcoming readings, go to www.liu.edu/CWPost/Academics/Schools/CLAS/Resources/Poetry-Center/

Upcoming Readings:

Thursday, Feb. 19

- A Celebration of Chinese New Year Leslie Bai reading with Stanley H. Barkan, poet and publisher of Cross-Cultural Communications.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

- Yuyutsu Ram Dass Sharma and Charles Fishman

Wednesday, March 18

- Poetry and Art: Erica Mapp and Yuko Otomo.

Tuesday, April 14

- Poetry Awards Night: Fran Castan and Lewis Zacks

JANISHA SANFORD



Led Zeppelin to Re-Release Albums

By Bryan Stengel
Staff Writer

On Feb. 24, rock band Led Zeppelin's 1975 double-album, "Physical Graffiti," will be the next recognized LP to get a supreme-package release, joining reissues of the band's first five albums last year.

Like the previous reissues, this deluxe album will be available in a range of formats, from a simple re-mastered two-disc collection, to a super deluxe box on both CD and vinyl, containing a 96-page hardcopy book, download card, and art print. It's understandable that former Zep groupies or those who practice monthly "Zepethons" would probably add this package to their rock shrine. Is it too late for the younger generations to start embracing "Zepplemania?"

In 1968, while The Beatles' hit "Hey Jude" peaked on the Billboard Top 100, Zeppelin's lead guitarist, Jimmy Page, held the band's first rehearsal. After a couple of minutes, he realized the magic that started to brew beneath floorboards of a record store on London's Gerald Street, where the band was practicing. The story goes that the band played just one number, "Train Kept a Rolling," and immediately the creative energy was there. The raunchy guitar riffs bellowing out of Page's Gibson instantly complimented Robert Plant's limitless vocal range, raising their talents to new heights where only giants could see. Drummer, John Bonham, and bassist-keyboardist, John Paul Jones, also rightfully played a critical part in the accomplishments of the band. For the band, they needed polarization to be in sync, and their diverse backgrounds miraculously brought them closer together.

Each of these musicians had an unusually rich and varied archive of influences to draw from. While many British rock bands seemed to focus on more traditional, one-dimensional visions, Zeppelin had a privy guitarist whose prowess feasted on anything from hard blues to Indian music. Zeppelin's vocal front man from Birmingham, Robert Plant,

tackled anything from soul to west coast psychedelic during his local pub gigs. Later on, Plant would drop lyrical nods to J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy in Zeppelin songs, some a bit more obvious than others. From the 1969 Led Zeppelin II album, the song, "Ramble On" clearly references the epic trilogy when Plant screams, "Twas in the darkest depths of Mordor, I met a girl so fair, but Gollum and the evil one crept up and slipped away with her." Even the best Zeppelin song of all-time, – despite what Rolling Stone claims – "Stairway to Heaven," plays with "LOTR" words. Last year, when Page began to unearth the collection of Zeppelin albums, he knew that this music would never be cast off into musical Mordor, and still retains a viable omnipresence in the genre of rock-and-roll to this day. Now, with its 40th anniversary and reissue approaching, "Physical Graffiti" will remind audiences just how creatively risky the band really was. This album could even be regarded as the one "synopsis" album of the Zeppelin discography, featuring a palate of their signature music styles over the years.

One of "Graffiti's" songs, "Ten Years Gone," refers to the story about a pre-Zeppelin Plant making music, and a lover of his trying to pull him away from that. As Plant recalls, she bluntly says, "It's me or the fans." Fast-forward 50 years later, Plant is still performing live and headlining for major festivals, including at this year's Bonaroo and Sasquatch, while Page continues to elevate the rhythmic pulse of Zeppelin and Paul Jones tours with Dave Grohl under the super group title, Them Crooked Vultures. When you look to the west, the late Johnny "Bonzo" Bonham could be seen driving the beat, and providing the backup vocals to Joe Crocker's cover of "With A Little Help From My Friends."

The reissued "Physical Graffiti" drops on Feb. 24.

Arts in Brief

By Pete Barell

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Jan. 26 - March 21st

"Concrete to Data" Street Art and Graffiti Exhibition

Curated by Professor Ryan Seslow

Steinberg Museum of Art, Hillwood Commons

Feb. 19

Post Television (PTV) meeting

Humanities 214, 12:40 p.m.

New students are welcome

A Celebration of Chinese New Year Leslie Bai reading with Stanley H. Barkan, poet and publisher of "Cross-Cultural Communications."

Steinberg Museum of Art, Hillwood Commons

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 20

SVPA Junior Faculty Retreat

Tilles Center Founders Room, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

All non-tenured full-time faculty are expected to attend

Feb. 23

Department of Music Convocation Presents

"Music Entrepreneurship: What to do Between College and that First Job"

Carole Farley, Metropolitan Opera Soprano

Hillwood Recital Hall, 12:30 p.m. Free admission

The Pioneer and The Bottom Line meeting (every Monday)

Pioneer Newsroom, Hillwood Commons, 2nd

Floor, 12:30 p.m.

Free pizza will be served. All are welcome

Feb. 25

Hillwood Recital Series

Undergraduate and Graduate Majors

Tilles Atrium, 12:30 p.m. Free admission

Feb. 27

Senior Recital: Melanie Makoski, Flute

Great Hall, 8:15 p.m. Free admission

Feb. 28

LIU Post Department of Music Audition Day, Fine Arts Center

For prospective music majors and minors

To register call 516-299-2475 or visit liu.edu/post/musicaudition

March 3

Poetry Center Reading

Yuyutsu Ram Dass Sharma and Charles Fishman

Steinberg Museum, Hillwood Commons

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Feb 27 - 28, March 5 - 8

"Metamorphoses" by Mary Zimmerman

Little Theatre Mainstage

All shows 7:30 p.m.; 3 p.m. matinee on 3/8; additional 2 p.m. matinee on 3/6

For more information call (516) 299-2395 or

email post-svpa@liu.edu.

Review: “50 Shades of Grey”

By **Chloé Margulis**
Staff Writer

While “50 Shades of Grey” was released in theaters on Feb. 13, just in time for Valentine’s Day, is watching it with your significant other the best gift in store? Poor acting and lack of chemistry, combined with sexual activity and promiscuity, led to much controversy upon the release of the film, based on the popular erotic romance novels by E. L. James.

At first glance, the film is complemented by nice cinematography and music – a definite eye catcher. Within the first few minutes, college student Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) is introduced to young, wealthy entrepreneur Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan), having to interview him for her school newspaper. From the moment they meet, a lack of chemistry between the actors is evident, making future scenes awkward and uncomfortable for the viewer to watch.

In addition, the movie is filled with a series of clichés. For example, Ana is made out to look like the socially awkward ‘Plain Jane’. When she is summoned to Christian’s office, she falls flat on her face while opening the door, thus representing an awkward, innocent young woman, in contrast to the domineering, experienced Mr. Grey. Furthermore, the meeting scene was filled with poorly acted sexual references; for example, Ana asks Christian if he is gay while chewing on a pencil with his name on it and batting her eyelashes at him.

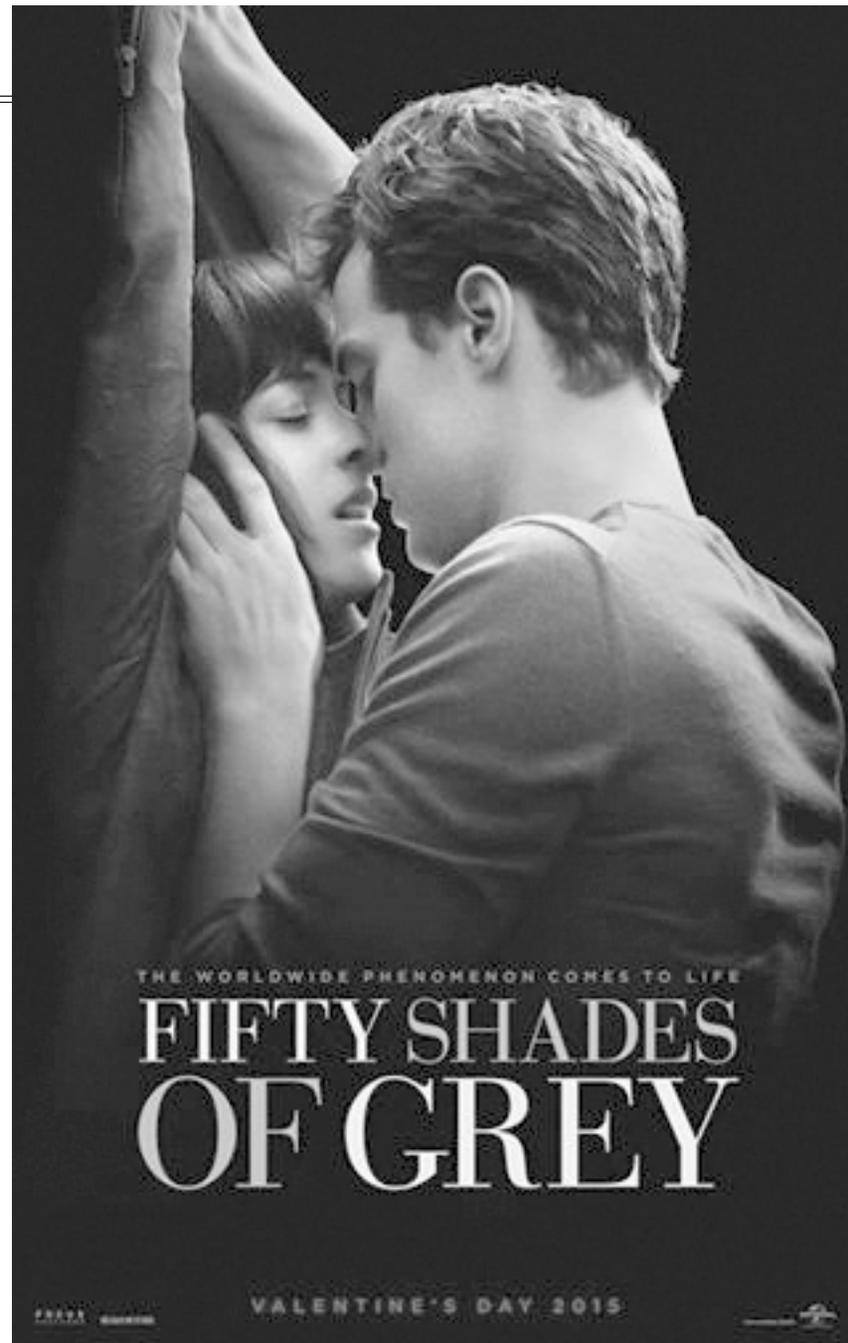
There is a failure in the story to develop a realistic intimacy between the characters. Within the first fifteen minutes of the movie, it was as if the two had known each other for a much longer time; Christian appears at the hardware store Ana works at to buy rope, masking tape, and cable ties. These are things she presumed he would use for house projects when in reality he uses them in his sexual playroom. In this scene, and many others, there is a lack of substantial conversation that would help develop the characters and the story.

Instead of meaningful interaction, the characters engage in sexual references and flirty small talk, all revolving around sex. For example, Ana tells Christian to use coveralls during his home projects. He responds that he would rather work sans clothes – another sexual reference most people who have just met would not say. Christian saves Ana from a bike nearly hitting her in the street, saying, “I am not the guy for you. You should steer clear of me.” Inevitably, the female protagonist can’t stay away, and she ends up crawling back to him and his lair of sexual preferences.

Eventually, Ana becomes so enthralled with him that she can’t leave, and yet she never signs the contract he has all “submissive” – women who agree to have sex with him – sign. The contract gives Christian consent to do whatever he wants to Ana sexually. When he brings her in his helicopter for the first time and straps her in, he says, “No escaping now.” This foreshadows the future scenes in the playroom, where he binds her for sexual activity. Ana is consistently tied up without her consent, demonstrating why this movie is seen as controversial.

Ana agrees to be his submissive without signing the contract, and tells Christian that she refuses to be whipped and put in pain. Despite her complaints, she is whipped. He teaches her to be an obedient sex slave, doing everything he demands from her. When she refuses to sign the contract, Christian shows up at her apartment, binds her to the bed, and consensually violates her. “50 Shades” thus implies that it is okay for women to be submissive to men and their desires.

This movie also gives people the wrong idea about sexual pleasure. Christian relates helping poor and impoverished hungry people to the hunger he experiences when he craves someone sexually – this is not the wisest correlation to make, nor one that promotes a truly healthy relationship. The screenwriters chose to demonstrate his lust for



someone over true love, which further affirms the abusive elements of this film.

This movie also demonstrates emotional abuse. Christian is not very nice to Ana, especially with his consistent mood swings, and she becomes emotionally scarred after he guilted her for demonstrating emotions of love towards him. “50 Shades” doesn’t leave the viewer with a settled opinion about love. Rather, it exposes the viewer to sexual and emotional abuse, abuse that the screenwriters attempt to normalize.

Finally, the movie opens and closes with a rainstorm, symbolizing the cleansing of Ana’s soul. In the beginning, the cleansing is the foreshadowing of her losing her virginity, and by the end, the cleansing of her sins in her consent to sexual activity with Mr. Grey. There is good closure to the film, but with this closure comes a cliffhanger, one that most likely means there are more films to come, following the book trilogy.

Overall, the film did have some good qualities, such as the music, cinematography, few bursts of traditionally romantic scenes, and closure that is somewhat satisfying. However, the negatives outweigh the positives. The film lacked substantial conversation, character and story development, focusing mostly on sexual innuendoes. The lack of chemistry between the two actors made it even more unattractive to watch. “50 Shades of Grey” is fifty shades of not worth your time.



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Men's Basketball Tops Mercy, Falls to STAC

By Thomas Scavetta

Assistant Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the men's basketball team (12-11) decimated Mercy College Mavericks (7-14), 85-57, in an East Coast Conference tilt at the Pratt Recreation Center.

After starting the contest on an impressive 24-8 run, the Pioneers never looked back. The hosts shot the ball efficiently all night long, as they finished above 49 percent from the field and 40 percent from the three-point range. On the side of the ball, the Mavericks couldn't put multiple possessions together and get going while the Green and Gold kept the pedal to the metal.

Sophomore forward Greg Dotson collected 18 points, seven rebounds, five blocks, and two steals while senior guard P.J. Torres knocked down 16 points in 19 minutes of action off the bench. Junior guard Dillon Burns racked up 11 points and dished out six assists, and junior guard Chris Orozco tallied nine points, five boards and a pair of steals in the victory, as well.

The Pioneers returned to the floor Saturday, Feb. 14, where they fell short to ECC rival St. Thomas Aquinas College Spartans (16-9) by a final score of 68-64 at Aquinas Hall.

Trailing 36-30 at intermission, the Pioneers came out on a 13-3 burst in the opening five minutes of the second half, giving the visitors a slim 43-39 advantage. Burns buried a three-pointer to tie the game during the run, which shifted the momentum in favor of the Pioneers.

From there on, the two teams traded buckets, until the Spartans tied the game at 53 apiece. Over the next four minutes, the hosts managed to grab a slight edge. Although the Green and Gold hung around and kept the game tight, the Spartans iced it thanks to a pair of free-throws via freshman guard Shaquille McFarlane at the six-second mark.

Dotson and senior forward Tyuan Williams each recorded a team-high of 15 points and crashed the glass for eight rebounds in the defeat. Burns finished with 14 points, three assists, and two steals. Torres had another solid showing with five points, five assists, and three boards.

Head Coach Erik Smiles and the Pioneers will look to bounce back when the return to action today. They will finish up their two-game road trip in Rockville Centre against Molloy College. Opening tip is set for 7.30 p.m.

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This Week in the NBA

By Brian Riley

Assistant News Editor

All-Star weekend has come and gone and the final leg of the season-long race has commenced. With less than half of the season to go, this is when the true contenders emerge and roll their momentum into the playoffs. Unlike last year, when the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs were destined to meet again in the finals, there are several legitimate teams from each conference who have a chance to make it to the finals this year.

The East

- It might be a little early to say for sure, but recently Derrick Rose has begun to show flashes of his old self. Over his last two games, Rose has scored 53 points on over 50% shooting, while only recording two turnovers. The Chicago Bulls are a contender even if Rose doesn't play like this, but when he does, Chicago has an opportunity to come out of the Eastern Conference.
- Since their 19-game winning-streak ended against the New Orleans Pelicans, the Atlanta Hawks finished 3-2 headed to the All-Star break. It is obvious that Jeff Teague, the first-time All-Star, is driving the train with his aggressive style of play along with a great group of supporting players such as Mike Scott, Dennis Schroder, and Kyle Korver. With Atlanta's great record, the only thing left to prove is, will this unselfish strategy continue in the playoffs?
- Last, but not least, the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James have finally begun to look like the offense that many people believed they could have over the last couple of weeks. LeBron and Kyrie Irving have seemed to develop a chemistry that allows the offense to run smoothly without impeding each other's space. On the other hand, Kevin Love has taken a backseat, but who doesn't when LeBron James is on your team?

The West

- Although the Memphis Grizzlies don't hold the top spot in the western conference, they appear to be the most legitimate contender. The core with Michael Conley, Zach Randolph, and Mark Gasol have been through several deep playoff runs over the years and are likely to make another one this year. The addition of Jeff Green goes a long way in adding athleticism, but is still not the scorer or the athlete that Rudy Gay was.
- Don't look now, but the lowly Oklahoma City Thunder have finally crept into striking distance of the 8th seed. The Thunder have won three straight games going into the break, and are only a half game back of the Phoenix Suns. Three of their next four opponents have losing records, which keeps the window for their playoff chances wide open.
- The San Antonio Spurs are not done yet; they have won seven of their last ten games heading into the break. Despite the Spurs winning games, Kawhi Leonard has struggled over his last three games, going 11-for-41 from the field. The Spurs are arguably the best coached team in the league and have a lot of veterans and, as history tells us, you can never count them out.

The season is far from over and higher seeds are still up for grabs. It will be interesting to see if Cleveland can begin to show signs on the defensive side of the ball as they have on offense. While in the west it is almost a guarantee that the standings will continue to shuffle until the season's final days.



PIONEER SPORTS



Results of the Week

Men's Basketball

vs Mercy College

85-57

vs St. Thomas Aquinas

64-68

Women's Basketball

vs Mercy College

72-59

vs St. Thomas Aquinas

69-77

Wrestling

vs East Stroudsburg University

26-16

Men's Lacrosse

#10 Queens University of Charlotte

12-8

Schedule

Men's Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 21, at 3.30 p.m.

vs Queens College

Women's Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1.30 p.m.

vs Queens College

Men's Lacrosse

Sunday, Feb. 22, at 12 p.m.

vs Robert Wesleyan College

Lady Pioneers Split vs ECC Foes

By Michael Otero

Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the women's basketball team (14-9) defeated the Mavericks from Mercy College (8-15) to win their third-straight East Coast Conference game. Their 72-59-victory was powered by the reigning ECC Player of the Week, senior guard Chelsea Williams, who poured in a game-high of 23 points in front of the Pratt Recreation Center faithful.

The Mavericks got the scoring started on the afternoon, but after that it was all Pioneers, as the Green and Gold went on a 20-2 run in the game's first seven minutes, dominating in all facets. They kept their lead for the rest of the half and extended their cushion to 23 points via a lay-up from junior guard Quanisha Ratley. The Pioneers headed to halftime, up 41-26 on the scoreboard.

In the second half, the Pioneers didn't let their foot off the gas, as they maintained a double-digit lead throughout the latter stanza. The Pioneers dominance was due in part to their tireless work on the boards. They out-rebounded the Mavericks by ten and were led by junior center Nyasia Davis who grabbed 14 boards. To go along with her 23 points, Williams dished out eight assists, grabbed four rebounds, and blocked five shots. Senior guard Ashley Castle added 11 points to help out the cause.

The Pioneers returned to action on Saturday, Feb. 14, when they traveled to Sparkhill, N.Y., to face off against the Spartans from St. Thomas Aquinas College (11-14). The visiting Pioneers got behind the eight ball early and couldn't recover, losing by a score of 77-69.

Following the opening tip, LIU started the game off very sloppy, missing three field goals and committing four turnovers. Trailing 6-5 early, the Spartans made a statement on their home court with a huge 17-0 run that set the tone for the rest of the game. The Pioneers committed four more turnovers during that span and the hosts held a 45-28 edge at halftime.

The second half was more of the same for the Pioneers, as they were never able to chip away at the lead and gain momentum. A few 5-0 spurts were answered with buckets by the Spartans, which eventually put the game out of reach.

For the game, red-shirt senior forward Jessica Little had a team-high of 15 points while Williams scored 13 on her own. Davis added 11 points and eight boards while Ratley chipped in with ten points. As a team, the Pioneers never really got



KIMBERLY TOLEDO

#3, senior guard Ashley Castle scored a total of 11 game points against Mercy

going offensively, explaining their low field goal percentage of just 34.

As for the Spartans, sophomore guard Samantha Burden had a game-high of 18 points and grabbed six rebounds while freshman guard Jenna Erickson poured in 17 points. The Spartans felt it from long range, as they shot an even 50 percent from deep and also shot close to the same percentage from the field.

Head Coach Deirdre Moore and the Pioneers will try to rebound from their loss as they take the court today against the Molloy College Lions. Tip-off from Rockville Centre, N.Y., is scheduled for 5 p.m.