Goodbye, Spring 2013

Day of Noise • Faux Progressives • Pro Sports’ Closet Slowly Opens
On April 11, HACC hosted the first Harrisburg mayoral debate, sponsored by Harrisburg Hope and HACC’s Student Government Association. The four candidates who participated, L-R: Mayor Linda Thompson, Eric Papenfuse, Lewis Butts, Jr., and Nevin Mindlin. See p.6 for more photos by Paul Batchelor.
News Briefs

Annual Honors Exhibit: Continuing until Friday, May 4, in Rose Lehrman Art Gallery.

New Beginnings Session for Adults: Wednesday, May 8, 6p - 7p, Cooper Rm. 204. Contact Elizabeth Stager at eastager@hacc.edu for more information.

One-Stop Enrollment: Saturday, May 4, 9a - 2p in Cooper. Admission fee waived.

Midtown Trade & Technology Center Information Session: Wednesday, May 1, 6p - 7:30p. Midtown 2, Room 202. Includes 45-min tour of the center.

FINALS WEEK! Tuesday, May 7 - Monday, May 13. Final grades available Tuesday, May 14.

Pre-Finals Breakfast: in Cooper lobby. May 1, 9a - 10a. Sponsored by Student Programming Board.

HACCfest! Come on out and support the Ronald McDonald House and have fun doing it! May 3. Be there, or be square.

Got a news brief? Get the word out about your cause, club, or upcoming campus or local event by submitting information to TFE. To place an ad, contact the editorial board for pricing information.

Interested in joining TFE? We are currently looking for photographers, sports, and general news writers, illustrators, business majors, and other creative, enthusiastic people to join our team. For more information, email us at 4estate@hacc.edu or check us out on Facebook. Staff meetings are open to all interested students and are held Thursdays at 2 p.m. in Cooper 110.

Corrections to TFE:
At The Fourth Estate, we strive for excellence in all of our issues. However, when mistakes do happen, we take pride in correcting them as soon as possible. If you notice something that needs to be fixed, please contact us at 4estate@hacc.edu.


$50 for Lisa’s 50: Honor Lisa Linton Farver’s memory by helping to establish the Lisa Linton Farver Endowed Memorial Scholarship for HACC students.

HACC Spirit Day! Wear your HACC gear on Thursday, May 2 for the chance to win a prize. Sponsored by the Student Programming Board.

Admissions Information Session: Wednesday, May 22, 3p - 4p; and May 29, noon - 1:30p. Harrisburg campus, Cooper, Rm. 204. Contact Natalie Smith at ndsmith@hacc.edu to RSVP.

Penn Staters Non Penn Staters Teachers Programs for: Sessions begin May 13 and June 26. Register today!

Check out harrisburg.psu.edu/summer.
SGA senators, president inducted

By Monica Graham
Editor-in-Chief

Brent Miller was voted in as SGA president-elect, and was sworn in on May 1. Three candidates were vying for the presidency and the right to choose their executive board in the Student Government Association for the following semester: Brandon Brown, Christine “KC” Mackey, and Brent Miller. The election was held the week of April 8, 2013. While the election brought more voters than previous spring election, it was still only 185 students voting out of about 8,500 - about 2% of the HACC Harrisburg campus.

During SGA’s meeting on April 24, Miller brought up bills to appoint his executive board. The senators up for appointment were: Kadijah Kastriba for secretary, Christine Mackey for vice-president, and Kendra Haines for treasurer. But all the secretary position passed with 2/3 vote, with current president Kadijah Kastriba not appointed with 7 years, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. The meeting was handed over to Vice President Katie M., business, 20, says, “Yes, I consider myself environmentally friendly, I always make sure to recycle and being the smoker that I am, that can be hard, so I always try to find an ashtray.”

“SGA could have publicized campus-wide,” he says. “Next time, I’d reach out to faculty to publicize SGA more in the classroom.”

SGA Advisor and Director of Student Life Jeff Fazio, says, “SGA and the election board can improve voter turnout by their continued efforts to educate students about SGA and inform them of the importance the group plays on campus.”

One possible hiccup could be from lack of staffing, said Guise. Every year, a bill is brought up in the SGA to set aside an amount of money to pay employees to staff the voting tables, and this time it didn’t go as smoothly. The week before elections, last minute staffers were located.

Brackbill, SGA senator, also helped out looking for fillers. It was difficult, as it had to be impartial people who could not sway the voters.

What could SGA do at the next election to improve numbers? Guise has many ideas, like increased visuals. More posters put up so students are aware of the election. Emailing professors to go into classrooms and speaking to the students about the importance of the election. Having more than one voting station available. Students are in and out and the more convenient you make it for them; the easier it is to vote.

Guise does admit that as a commuter campus, low voter turnout will be a hurdle SGA will always face, but they are looking forward to a higher turnout at next year’s election.

Earth Day, not just for trees

Since Earth Day was enacted in 1970, Americans have been looking for ways to be “Earth friendly.” What does that mean?

By Elizabeth Hewitt
Contributing Writer

When Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets nationwide, demonstrating for a healthy, sustainable environment. Nearly 40 years later, the once American Earth Day has received global attention with many environmental goals yet to be attained. One generation grew up completely unaware of the impact their daily lives had on the environment, while another generation has been raised in an environmentally friendly world. Has it become a natural habit for the younger generations to recycle or to keep the earth around us beautiful?

Aaron K., criminal justice, 21, said, “I’m more environmentally neutral than friendly. I recycle but I don’t go out of my way to help the environment in other ways. I honestly didn’t even know there was an Earth Day.”

Allie J., education, 20, said, “I recycle as much as I can and I don’t celebrate Earth Day presently, but I probably will as a future teacher with my elementary students.”

Why did Earth Day begin? After witnessing the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin proposed the idea of having a “national teach-in on the environment.” Until this point, no one was fully aware of the impact that we were having on the environment.

It was important for Earth Day to signify a day where, as a country, we took a step back and looked at how we were affecting the environment around us.

Evan A., engineering, 21, said, “I try to be environmentally friendly. I recycle whenever I’m able, but I don’t necessarily volunteer and I’m not active in a specific event, I just know it’s important.”

Logan H., business, 21, says, “I hardly ever recycle, most of the time when I am out I still can’t find the proper places to recycle. Many neighborhoods still don’t have recycling.”

Katie M., business, 20, says, “Yes, I consider myself environmentally friendly, I always acknowledge the election could have run more smoothly had it been better prepared.

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The first Earth Day precipitated the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency by focusing national attention on pollution.
Fifty years ago, a bill was passed and signed into law that ordered the creation of Pennsylvania’s community colleges. Following that, the Pennsylvania Community College Coalition (PCCC) was formed as a partnership between the 14 community colleges in the state.

Each year, the colleges come together in a joint effort to lobby the Pennsylvania State Congress and petition for increased funding to support community colleges. On April 9, Marjorie Brackbill and I served as the two representatives from the Harrisburg campus of HACC to speak to the congressmen from our local districts. Jeff Fazio, director of student life at the Harrisburg campus, served as the campus representative and assisted us in our efforts throughout the day.

We were able to meet with one representative in person, Glen Grell, who represents the 87th legislative district in Cumberland County; and three different staff people for Senators Jake Corman of the 34th district (Centre, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, and Union Counties), John R. Gordner of the 27th district (Columbia, Dauphin, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, and Snyder Counties), and Patricia Vance of the 31st district (Cumberland and York Counties).

This year, the PCCC was asking for $14 million in increased funding, $8 million of which were requests for increases in operating expenses which would allow schools to pay for more teachers, staff, and faculty, as well as utility bills and other day-to-day operations. The additional $6 million was requested to pay for new capital expenditures, including new building projects, building revitalization, and computer software and hardware upgrades.

The representative and staff persons that we met seemed very receptive and on board with what the coalition was requesting. All four of the people that we spoke with recounted past experiences that either they or their family members had with community colleges, and with HACC in particular.

While they all were very sympathetic to our requests, the common consensus was that while funding for community colleges would not be cut, the chances of increased funding were slim.

Representative Grell said that there was a chance of getting some of the funding dollars for capital expenditures, but it would take a great deal of effort to be able to sell the plan to congress.

He believed that if the plan was brought forward and discussed, that not only would the schools be able to begin new building projects, but that it would also create and sustain jobs in a currently struggling construction industry.

Overall, the day was a success and a very educational experience. The experience of seeing and participating in how our governmental process operates was very rewarding.
HACC hosts debate of Harrisburg mayoral candidates

Four of the five invited candidates for mayor of Harrisburg participated in a debate held in Cooper April 11: Mayor Linda Thompson, Eric Papenfuse, Lewis Butts, Jr., and Nevin Mindlin.

Dan Miller declined the invitation, citing a busy tax season at his accounting business.

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer, president of debate co-sponsor Harrisburg Hope, moderated. HACC’s Student Government Association co-sponsored the event, and The Fourth Estate kept time. The debate was televised on Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Some attendees were frustrated by the candidates’ vague responses to questions asked about crime, school debt, and general city finances.

Day of Noise gives voice to student causes

Campus clubs, led by ALLIES: We Are Glow*, organized the Day of Noise, held April 17 in Cooper. Clubs were encouraged to spread awareness of social issues and causes they support, such as rape culture awareness. Activities such as t-shirt decorating and face painting were set up for students to take part in. Multicultural entertainment included belly dancers and a comedian.
Active NBA player first to leave closet

By David Cordero
Contributing Writer

“T’m a 34 year old NBA center. I am black, and I am gay,” said 12-year NBA veteran Jason Collins, in a statement released online Monday, April 29, in an article for Sports Illustrated.

With this statement, Collins is the first active athlete in the four major professional sports leagues to openly admit that he is gay.

Almost instantly, the support from his peers began to pour in. Current leaders in the NBA, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, and Dwyane Wade, all pledged their support through various social media sites, drawing awareness and preaching acceptance.

Former NBA greats Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Jr. and Charles Barkley also offered words of support and encouragement.

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Brendon Ayanbadejo, who was recently released from the Baltimore Ravens, has said that he knows of several gay players in more sports than just football.

Alan Gendreau, a former kicker for Middle Tennessee State, is openly gay and is trying to become the first openly gay player in the NFL. Some NFL players think that it’s best if there is never an openly gay player in the league.

Earlier this year, Chris Culliver of the San Francisco 49ers, made derogatory comments regarding gays in the NFL, saying he, “ain’t got no gay people on the team. They gotta get up outta here if they do. Can’t be with that sweet stuff.”

He continued by saying gay players should not be allowed in the locker room, should keep their sexuality a secret, and not come out until 10 years after retirement. While he did apologize for his remarks, it’s obvious there is still a need for sensitivity training.

The NHL has already announced what has so far been the most comprehensive measure by a major men’s league in support of gay athletes. They have formed a partnership with the You Can Play Project — an advocacy group pledged to fighting homophobia in sports — to plan training and counseling on gay issues for its teams and players.

The NFL is working with gay advocacy groups to smooth the way for acceptance and to discuss preparations for when any of its players publicly reveals his homosexuality.

Chris Clemens, of the Seattle Seahawks, posted on his twitter page about a rumor of a gay athlete coming out of the closet in the NFL, saying, “I’m not against anyone, but I think it’s a selfish act. Like Ayanbadejo, not all NFL players are against. A lot of current and former players have come out and said they would welcome and support a gay player in their locker room as if he was any other person. Names like Michael Strahan, Michael Irvin, Robert Griffin III, Eddie George, and Donè Stallworth, just to name a few. They just trying to make themselves bigger than the team.”

The NBA has sent out memos in preparation for the draft, telling teams that during interviews they cannot ask questions about religion, race, and sexual orientation, which is protected information in any other job interview. In college football, UCLA has put out a video encouraging gay athletes to play, and head football coach Jim Mora, Jr. has said he would welcome any gay athlete to his team.

Gay athletes in sports are not confined to just men’s leagues. The Women’s National Basketball Association has already stated that they are fine with openly gay athletes. The number one overall pick in this year’s draft, Brittney Griner, has acknowledged that she is gay, and the WNBA has supported her.

Collins had wished that others would have come out before him to give him the strength to do the same. Tired of hiding who he really was, he decided to go public. He hopes the support shown to him provides strength to other professional athletes facing the same situation.

“Arcadia accepted all of my community college credits.”

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SPRINTS

May 2013

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With two cases on marriage equality pending before the Supreme Court, how does the national debate play out on the microcosm of the Harrington campus? Many students said they feel that marriage should be based on love, not gender. Sainte Laurent, 20, art, says, “I think that people should be free to marry whomsoever they love, no matter what sex they are. I mean it’s not for us to judge on whom they marry. Why should they any different than anyone else?”

Ahmed Zainal, humanities, language, and the arts, is saying, “I don’t see any reason why two people who are in love shouldn’t get married, including if they’re the ‘same gender’.”

“According to my faith, marriage is between a man and a woman, and from the legal standpoint, I believe that’s how it should stay as well.”

Others said we should all have the same legal rights, but those rights shouldn’t necessarily include marriage for couples of any sexual orientation.

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By Monica Graham
Editor-in-Chief

Student Profile: Kent Sariano

As he prepares to transfer, Kent Sariano reflects on his path to HACC, as well as how the school has impacted him and the impact he hopes he’s made while he was here.

When you walk into the writing lab in Whitaker, 25-year-old Kent Sariano doesn’t look like a previous sub-junior state champion in clay shooting.

In fact, the native of Harrisburg strikes you as more of a guitar-strumming hippie, with his laid-back attitude, thin build, and hair in a ponytail, than current student and writing tutor for the HACC Harrisburg campus.

He was strumming guitar before he became a tutor, having graduated from an 18-month GIT program at the age of 20 at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood, California.

“I wanted to make music for movies,” says Sariano. Unfortunately, life had other plans. “I got tendonitis when I graduated, so I couldn’t play guitar anymore.”

After that harsh blow, Sariano thought back to his glory days of clay shooting. He won several tournaments as a youngster, placing 3rd in the US Open in the five-stand event, and 2nd in the preliminaries. He also won several tournaments in Florida, New Jersey, and along the east coast.

“I thought, maybe this [clay shooting] was my true calling,” he says. So Sariano went back to teaching at Central Penn Sporting Clays, where he taught a youth group, known as The Crushers, the joys of clay shooting.

“If you have the skill it’s just a mental game, like golf,” he says. He recalls one particular event where he placed well. “I won first in the Master’s Cup, which was awesome,” he says. “You have to play consistently.” Sariano remembers shooting low on the first day, but gaining ground the next and “it was enough to win.”

He applies that same mentality to everything he does. He didn’t feel the clay shooting clubs were working for him, so he decided to return to school in 2010. He remembers Professor Boswell, Senior Professor of English, giving him encouragement with writing, so Sariano figured he’d stick with that.

Sariano has attended HACC on and off since 2010, and what he didn’t want was for HACC to be a place where he Development and Psych.

Since his true passion is music, it is no wonder his musical tastes are varied. He had his own metal band in high school, and really liked Metallica and Iron Maiden, but once he went to California, he got into blues and jazz. “I like Bill Frisell, gypsy jazz...”

“I feel it’s like that for a lot of students: you come and go and never connect. I wanted to connect to HACC. I wanted to have something to say about the school after I left.”

He chose to connect by attending an informal meeting of a new club on campus, SI/SA (Social Inquiry/Social Action). “It was a small group, and I thought I could contribute positively,” he says, “I thought I could make a difference…associate with people that are involved … are interested in being involved with the community.”

But it was a learning process, and Professor Liu was the advisor. “I really like working with Liu, don’t tell him that!” he jokes. “He’s like a mentor…he’s always been good at guiding me with stuff I should be doing.”

As for his favorite classes at HACC, he didn’t want to leave out any professors, but said he really enjoyed Dr. Gutwein’s creative writing class. “That’s the one that really got me writing again,” he says.

Sariano also liked the challenge of Professor Ijomah’s geography class, and feels people should know where places are in the world.

Sariano enjoys his time in the writing lab as a tutor, because he meets a lot of “cool people.” Whether it’s “an ESL student who barely speaks English or a super smart student with a paper, we help people out with all aspects of writing,” he says. The toughest papers? “Professor Liu’s.”

Sariano isn’t all work and no play. He enjoys watching in-depth dramas, like The Wire, The Sopranos, and Breaking Bad, as well as comedies like Arrested Development.

rolloff sax and Thelonious Monk for piano.

Even though he wants to major in English with a creative writing track, and continue on to a master’s in English and teach one day, he does have a current five-year plan. “After I get my bachelor’s, I want to move back to California and work as a screenwriter,” he says, “I’ll hopefully be out in Hollywood in two or three years…with all the screwballs and nutjobs.”

Sariano hasn’t given up on music quite yet. “I want to start a super band,” he jokes, but what he really wants to do is work on a set. “I want to work creatively with people. If that means writing, or producing… I want to work with a group of people and make something that a lot of people see,” he adds, “And, I don’t know, probably skydiving. I don’t think it’s a good idea, but I think I should try it once.”

From rocking guitar in Hollywood to majoring in English with a creative writing track, Sariano likes to explore new realms.
Faculty Profile: Jonathan Gainor

By Kent Sariano
Contributing Writer

Known for his high energy classroom antics and passion for teaching, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Jonathon Gainor has made his mark at HACC’s Harrisburg campus.

As a young man, Gainor was drawn to the metaphysical branch of philosophy, but during his graduate school years he began to shift gears, refocusing his studies on political philosophy. “It is partly because I like to work with ideas that help me to construct a meaningful theory of the present,” he says.

And while he loves teaching all areas of philosophy, Gainor says, “I’m very much interested in logic and critical thinking. It’s something I enjoy very much.” In fact, the professor believes, “we’d all be better off if folks learned how to do a little more critical thinking.”

Gainor’s background includes more than just his philosophical studies. He has a minor in chemistry and spent two summers working in a laboratory. And while he didn’t pursue a career in science, Gainor’s experience in the field could help him realize his dream job. “If I had the capital, I’d love to be a brewer.” He says he is, “a big fan of the craft beers…for me it’s a part of the total dining experience.”

When he’s not pursuing a career as a beer connoisseur, Professor Gainor spends his leisure time reading. “I am very interested in American labor history,” he says.

He also enjoys exercising, saying that after a workout he likes to “coast through the evening” by watching the Phillies. Gainor says, “for better or for worse, we’re fans of Philly baseball and football.”

Gainor also believes it’s important to keep up with social issues and current events. He says, “I am very much concerned about posterity…I’d like to see a more equitable society.” His interest in ethical dilemmas is reflected in his teaching style. “In my opinion, he made philosophy is more than just a subject taught in the classroom: it’s a way of life. He says, “it’s the kind of thing that keeps me going.”

“As a professor, Jonathon Gainor has a lot to offer, and his passion for teaching is evident to anyone who takes his classes. For him, philosophy is more than just a subject taught in the classroom: it’s a way of life. He says, “It’s the kind of thing that keeps me going.”

The class then discusses models of ethical decision making before finishing the semester by examining moral problems through the lenses of different philosophical theories.

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Screwing Orphans. He describes their style as “fusion traditional rock” in the vein of Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphys. “Even in my age I like to get raucous from time to time,” he says, “Raucous with Bacchus!”

The professor carries his youthful spirit into the classroom. He draws inspiration from his former ancient philosophy teacher, Johns Ellsworth Winter, and says his theatrics and humor probably influenced his own teaching style. “In my opinion, he made topics that a lot of people might have found dry, pre-Socratic scientific views, for example, or proto-scientific views, interesting,” he says.

Although Professor Gainor is now a full-time philosophy instructor at HACC, he spent the early days of his teaching career as an adjunct during the day while bartending at night. “I persevered for a very long time,” he says, “One piece of advice I would give is don’t expect anything to happen over night.”

When discussing the idea of the “American Dream,” Gainor says many people do all the right things and still don’t achieve it. “I think meaningful work and a small group of friends that matter to you is more important than the so called American dream anyway,” he says.

Next fall, Professor Gainor will be teaching numerous philosophy courses, including Honors Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Philosophy of Science, and Ethics. It’s a class where he explores ideas of human happiness and a good life. He says, “Those were typically the way ethical issues were framed by the ancient Greeks: what is a good human existence, a good human life?”

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As a professor, Jonathon Gainor has a lot to offer, and his passion for teaching is evident to anyone who takes his classes. For him, philosophy is more than just a subject taught in the classroom: it’s a way of life. He says, “It’s the kind of thing that keeps me going.”

Discussing the merits of sharpening one’s critical thinking skills, Gainor says, “If I were not spending my time improving my knowledge base, improving myself, I’d feel like I was wasting my time. And for me, it’s actually fun.”
By Isha Bah  
Staff Writer

As the saying goes, “new year, new you, new wardrobe,” so why not start now? For anyone who has ever had a New Year’s resolution, it’s no secret that massive wardrobe clean-ups are not a new concept. This is especially the case come spring and summer when, living in one of the coldest winter climates in the United States, we are able to shed our layers and show some skin.

However, cleaning out your closet and reviving your wardrobe for the warmer seasons can be a daunting task, especially financially. Most college students don’t come equipped with a limitless budget, and the idea of a curated wardrobe seems out of reach. But don’t give up. It’s not impossible. The key to mixing up your look with this season’s trends without breaking the college student budget is simpler than it seems.

One of this season’s biggest trends is lacy peek-a-boo cutouts. From Marc Jacobs to Alexander Wang, this trend has cropped up on the runway time and again. But you don’t have to pay run-away prices to achieve this look. Retail stores, such as Forever 21, have flexible prices from $15 - $20, and they fall right in with any college girl’s budget. You can stock up on key pieces that showcase clever cut-outs and frilly lace cover-ups. For anyone who has a slightly higher budget, most of the pieces at Nastygal.com are within your reach. From sheer button-downs to mesh paneled dresses, it’s a great selection.

Another huge trend in 2013 is statement sunglasses, which definitely come in handy at the beach. Luckily, you don’t have to pay an arm and a leg for a cute pair of sunnies. Stores like Urban Outfitters have a wide range of sunglasses, such as the Jupiter Round way prices to achieve this look. Retail stores such as Forever 21, have flexible prices from $15 - $20, and they fall right in with any college girl’s budget. You can stock up on key pieces that showcase clever cut-outs and frilly lace cover-ups. For anyone who has a slightly higher budget, most of the pieces at Nastygal.com are within your reach. From sheer button-downs to mesh paneled dresses, it’s a great selection.

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Learning how to rework some pieces on your own can also save you money. Keeping a curated wardrobe can seem almost impossible for a college student these days, but with these tips, you’ll have the perfect summer wardrobe in no time and still have the money left over to hit the ice cream parlor and show off your new look.

By Lydia Hurley  
Staff Writer

Sleep paralysis, while not well-known, affects students with far more frequency than the general population. This is the last in TFE’s series of articles on mental health for the school year.

Students are more likely than most people to have sleep paralysis, which is a disorder where the person is conscious but can’t move. It usually happens in the process of waking up or falling asleep when a cycle of REM is interrupted. REM atonia is a rapid eye movement cycle where muscles do not function. When someone wakes up during this cycle, they have the hallucinations of dreams, but are aware of their surrounding which make the hallucinations seem real and especially frightening.

The most common type happens infrequently and is short in duration, sometimes only a minute. The less common, recurrent type, happens at a frequency of about once a day to once a week, and the duration of the individual occurrence is often an hour long. Sleep paralysis is accompanied by hallucinations, which can come in the form of a hag, a demon, or a shadowy man who is very violent. Reports have been similar throughout history and in cultures around the world. There are myths of demons that sit on women while they are sleeping.

Until a month ago, I didn’t know a close friend of mine had sleep paralysis. She was scared to go to sleep because of the possibility of sleep paralysis, so she avoided sleeping. She was embarrassed and hadn’t told many people because she thought it was an anomaly. She became worried when she was studying the DSM-IV, the go-to-book for all psychological disorders, and couldn’t find sleep paralysis. My friend thought she was the only one, but as a student, it is more common than you might think.

Brian A. Sharpless and Jacques P. Barber, who reviewed and summarized studies on sleep paralysis, found that of those studied, 7.6% of the general population and 31.9% of students had sleep paralysis, while one-fifth of the population had sleep paralysis at least once in their life. A lack of sleep is associated with sleep paralysis, but it’s hard to tell if it’s the cause of sleep paralysis, the consequence, or a combination of both. Stimulant use, being a psychiatric patient, and having African or Asian ancestry are all associated with sleep paralysis.

The knowledge that sleep paralysis exists and occurs frequently among students is needed so that those who experience it know they are not alone, and that it isn’t just a hallucination. They are not freaks.

Scary sleep disorder 75% more frequent in students
Recently, I interviewed a good number of people from varying backgrounds, ideologies, political affiliations, and perspectives for the purpose of writing a short movie for a student film festival. In this film, “Straight Lines,” a straight couple assumes the opposite of tradition—al gender roles and deals with the scrutiny that pervades our often presumptive society. Just a light-hearted comedy that has no bearing on current relationships in the postmodern era? Hardly.

What I found fascinating about presenting this concept is even those who identified themselves as open-minded, progressive, and tolerant still seemed to take issue with the way this couple would live out their lives. There were the usual homophobic reactions and tendencies, ironically about a couple who is as straight as they come, but those who would even support them if they were each gay individuals didn’t have minds as open as perhaps they would like to believe.

Some presumed that they were actually gay because they acted that way. Some who even supported gay rights found it confusing and strange that a straight male would take on the submissive, feminine role in a straight relationship. The idea of a tomboy was a bit more familiar to most, but even some of those thought she would be “butch” or ridiculously masculine, and she wasn’t.

This brings to light the reason this film didn’t end up being the light-hearted comedy I initially intended to write: a lot of people reacted the way I wrote the well-intentioned but oblivious parents to be. Interestingly enough, one person responded to this synopsis by saying, “Isn’t that how things are already?” Apparently not.

The trouble with this concept is that some people in this world still see things as black and white, even if they are trying to be more open-minded about what exists in this world. Sexuality is a lot more complicated than some people would think. Not everything is divided neatly along a gay/straight, homosexual/heterosexual line. A man who feels feminine is not necessarily gay. Maybe he’s bisexual, transgender, transsexual, pansexual, or none of the above. Maybe he’s just feminine and attracted to women. Maybe a woman who takes the dominant role in a relationship isn’t just an aggressive bitch, but someone who can take on that role and tendency within the right relationship. Who’s to say that’s wrong?

What I’ve learned about our society in making this film is that we are not, as a whole, nearly as progressive or postmodern as we would like to believe. Even those who claim that “liberals” as a whole have taken over/ruined everything might find themselves rather surprised when they actually choose to speak about such things. Our country’s grasp on human relationships and sexuality is still locked into a rather Puritan mindset, to the point that it’s not surprising that they automatically associate certain behaviors with something along the dividing line; the “Straight Line” if you will.

No two relationships are alike, and nobody can control what gratifies them in said relationship, sexually or otherwise. Everything is not conveniently divided into one or the other, because we’re a much more complicated species. I used to think that I knew a lot until I got out in the world and realized I don’t know a damn thing. Trust me; everything you think you know about the world only scratches the surface.

Some people in this world still see things as black and white, even if they are trying to be more open-minded. The point is not to stand on a soapbox and lecture about those being different, as that would make me no better than those I’ve criticized. Rather, just a measure of hope that people won’t assume things about others just because of how they act on the surface. Chances are, you haven’t got a clue what is inscribed on their tabula rasa, nor is it any of your business in the grand scheme. Just know that there are a lot more variables that exist in this world. Stop living in such an enclosed, uninformed bubble and try to realize that it’s only natural. Who knows, you may even learn something about yourself in the process.
School districts should be happy to pay for “older” students

The 22 local school districts which subsidize our tuition are all cutting the amount of funding that goes to HACC. Considering virtually every district has made huge cuts to their K-12 budgets, this should hardly come as a surprise to anyone. When the districts are furloughing hundreds of their own employees and photocopying books for students because they can’t afford to buy enough real ones, it’s hard to get righteously indignant about them tightening the purse strings for us. After all, Corbett cut their funding, too. Things are tough all over. No one is saying HACC doesn’t provide a valuable service to worth-while students, right?

Well, yes, actually, someone is. While defending his district’s cuts to HACC, Carlisle superintendent John Friend cited supporting “older persons going back to school” – which describes around half of HACC’s student body – as something that was hard to support.

Hard to support? In what way, exactly, is education for “older persons” hard to support?

Because they’re less likely to get hired for jobs in their field due to their age?

The average person is expected to go through anywhere from five to eleven jobs in their lifetime. Is Friend implying that if you don’t get your degree by the time you hit legal drinking age, you’re doomed to serve out a life sentence in a succession of fast food restaurants?

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Because workplace advancement beyond running a register or answering phones almost always requires a college degree. Maybe he would prefer you just work at Wal-Mart and go on medical assistance, saving the district that tuition money by depending on county funds instead?

Because they’re just lazy and using college to avoid their real world responsibilities?

Maybe he can try that one out on the nursing student who’s gone to night classes for 3 years and just got off an 8-hour shift at their “real” job before heading to clinicals? Or one of HACC’s many single mothers who juggles childcare arrangements, classes, and a crappy part-time job with no benefits on 4 hours of sleep so she can get her degree? Or that guy in the HVAC program who works night shift so he can take classes during the day and get certified? Or maybe he quibbles with the commitment of our criminal justice majors and emergency responders? It’s all fun and games over at the Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola Law Enforcement Complex – those guys are definitely in it for a good time!

Because they’re grownups, and they should be paying their own tuition?

Is Friend really going to feed this line to his constituents who pay school taxes? That 50-year-old with no kids is going to be completely understand- ing when Carlisle tells him that after paying for other people’s children to get an education for the last 30 years, he doesn’t deserve one. Especially when his property taxes go up. Again.

Because they’re not going to provide the community with a return on its investment?

Mr. Friend, adult students already live in your community. A lot of them have kids – IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT – that they’re not going to uproot when they graduate. They’re in it for the long haul. Unlike younger college grads rushing off to find a brave new world (i.e. somewhere out of state), these “older persons” are sticking around.

They’re going to be doing nothing BUT providing their school district with a return on its investment for decades with the taxes they’ll be paying on the higher income they’ll be making with a certificate, diploma, or degree in hand. See also the aforementioned nurses, police, fire fighters, and EMTs.

Everyone knows these are hard economic times. That’s why so many non-traditional students need HACC to begin with. They’re not lazy or greedy or trying to shirk their responsibilities. They’re working their asses off to become productive members of their communities. Mr. Friend better hope HACC grads decide his district is a community they still want to support.

Letter to the Editor

TFE,
Thanks for the article about the Pit-bull and related canines…
I have a German Shepard- American Staffordshire mix named Mango. She is a THERAPY dog with the Red Cross. This means she has to go through training and observations so kids and the elderly can pet her. There is no violent bone in her body!!

Just yesterday, she chased a vole in my backyard… I guess any dog has an instinct to chase something that runs… she caught it and I simply said ‘drop it’ and she did… and the little vole scampered off to my woodpile…

If you want to do a follow up to make a point about all of the good that these dogs can do, I would be happy to share photos or bring Mango in for you.

I will attach a few pictures as a proud mama!

Notice the pink toenails in the one with the football… we did this for a visit to Ronald McDonald House.

Thanks much,
Gina M. Bowers-Miller M.Ed., NCC, LPC, DCC
Professor CIS & WEB
Computer Department Counselor -Technology Division

May 2013

EDITORIAL
Transfers are welcome.

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TFE writers win big!

2013 Student Keystone Press Awards

The Fourth Estate’s writers took home six prizes in the 2-year college division at the Student Keystone Press Awards luncheon on Wednesday, April 10. The luncheon was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Foundation and the Pennsylvania Society of News Editors and held at the Hershey Lodge.

First Place-Ongoing News Coverage: Molly Lemke & Lydia Hurley

First Place-Feature Story: Richard Laird

First Place-Editorial: Amy Rundle

First Place-Column: Amy Rundle

Second Place-Personality Profile: Allison Stark

Sports Story-Honorable Mention: Matthew Gray

Clockwise from top left: Monica Graham, Molly Lemke, Lydia Hurley, Allison Stark, Trum Simmons, & Richard Laird.
You’ve chosen to earn an associate’s degree at HACC. Make your next choice the perfect one. Transfer your credits to KU for a bachelor’s degree that will help you make the most of your career.

Still accepting applications for fall!

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