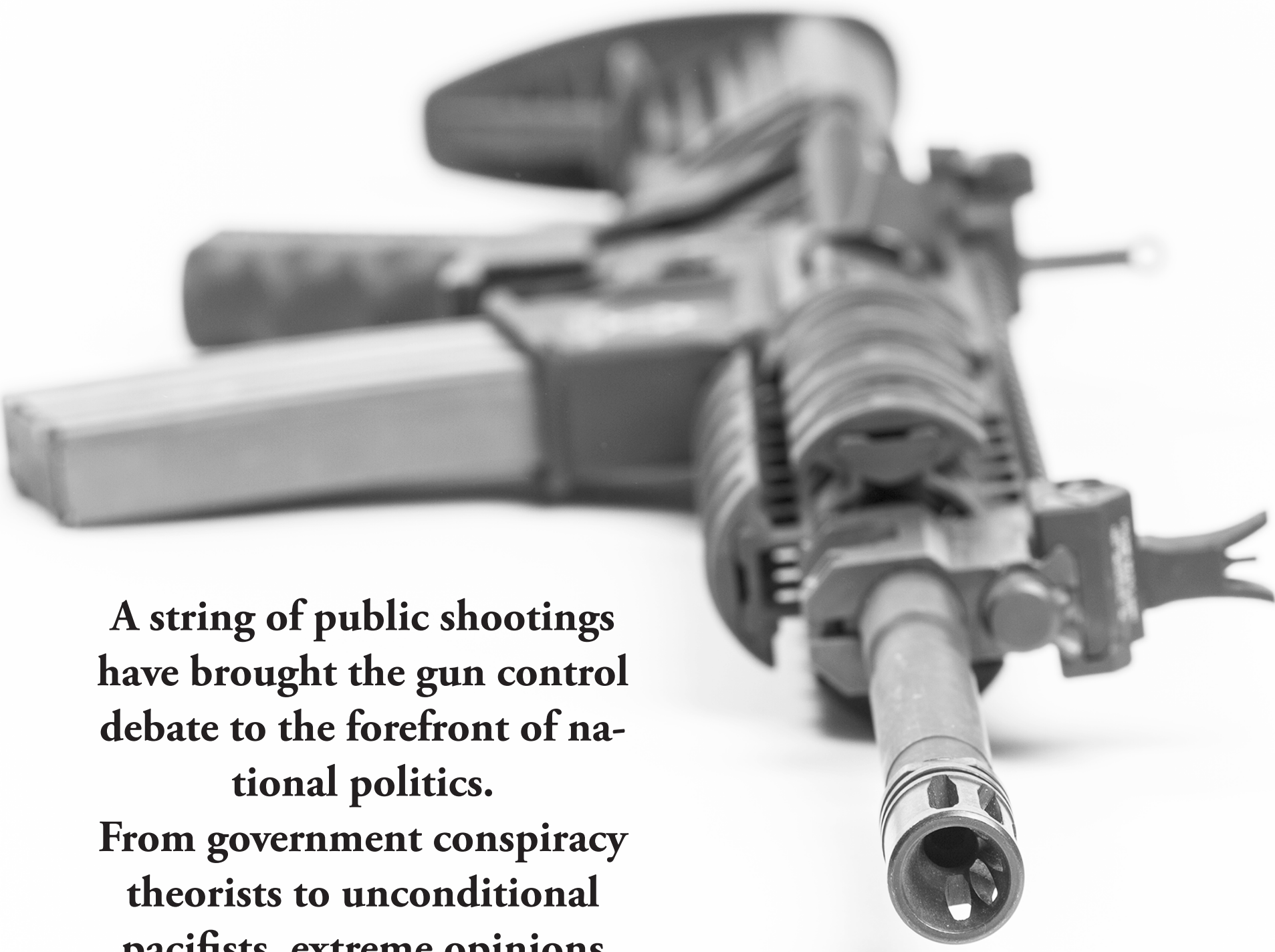


The Fourth Estate

Vol. XLVII, No. 13

February 2013

Harrisburg Area Community College



A string of public shootings have brought the gun control debate to the forefront of national politics.

From government conspiracy theorists to unconditional pacifists, extreme opinions dominate the media.

Where do students' feelings really lie?

Remembering Lisa Farver • SGA EC - What's That? • Honors Redux

In This Issue

The Fourth Estate

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LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR

The Fourth Estate welcomes letters from readers. Letters should include the writer's affiliation with the college, address, and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing for style, length, and libel. They should not exceed 350 words. All submissions then become the property of The Fourth Estate.

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LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE



COURTESY:HACC Communications professor and CSF adviser Lisa Farver.



LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

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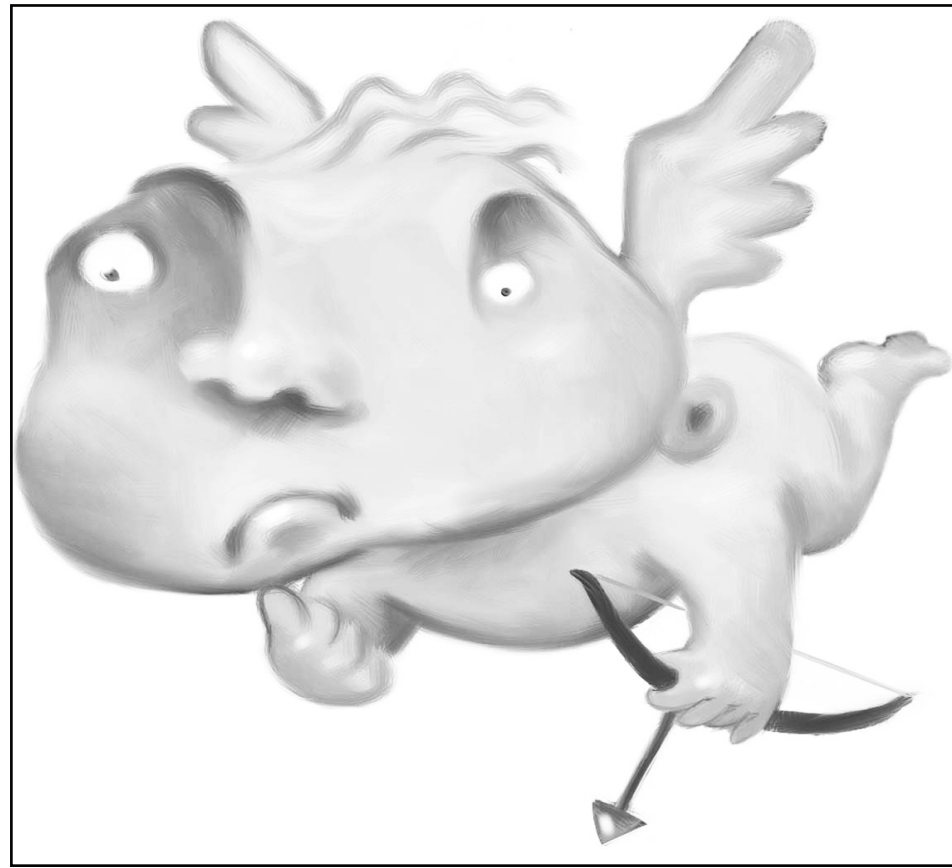
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Saint Valentine and his day



MCTCAMPUS

By Audrey Ulsh
Contributing Writer

Depending on when you read this, you may be preparing to celebrate Valentine's Day. Perhaps you're going out for dinner, or maybe spending a nice evening at home. You might be getting ready to work, or you might not even know that Valentine's day is happening. No matter your plans, this holiday has been occurring for hundreds of years.

Valentine's Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine of Rome, was originally a day to celebrate the martyred St. Valentine, who was beheaded in 268 CE for aiding martyrs imprisoned by Emperor Claudius II. Although the year of canonization is unknown, in 496 CE, Pope Gelasius marked February 14, the date of St. Valentine's execution, as a feast day in the saint's honor.

Romantic association with the holiday likely began in England around the mid-14th century, and was often related to birds starting

to mate, as noted in Parliament of Foules, written by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1382.

"For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

Many historians believe that initial celebration of the day was to replace Lupercalia, the pagan festival of Lupercus, the god of shepherds. Some historians have asserted that many customs and traditions of Valentine's Day are derived from this festival, which was outlawed under Pope Gelasius, the same to make February 14th Valentine's feast day.

The legend regarding the sending of valentines is that Saint Valentine, while in prison, healed the blindness of the jailer's daughter. Before his beheading, Valentine wrote the girl a letter and signed it, "From your Valentine." Whether or not this is true is not known, but at the very least it gives us an annual excuse to celebrate our loved ones, and give card and chocolate companies lots of money.

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.

LINKED Sub & Pretzel Sale: February 6-22, \$4 for pretzel sandwiches, \$6 for 12" subs on Italian roll (some varieties available on whole wheat). Contact the club at LINKED4CHANCE@hotmail.com to place an order.

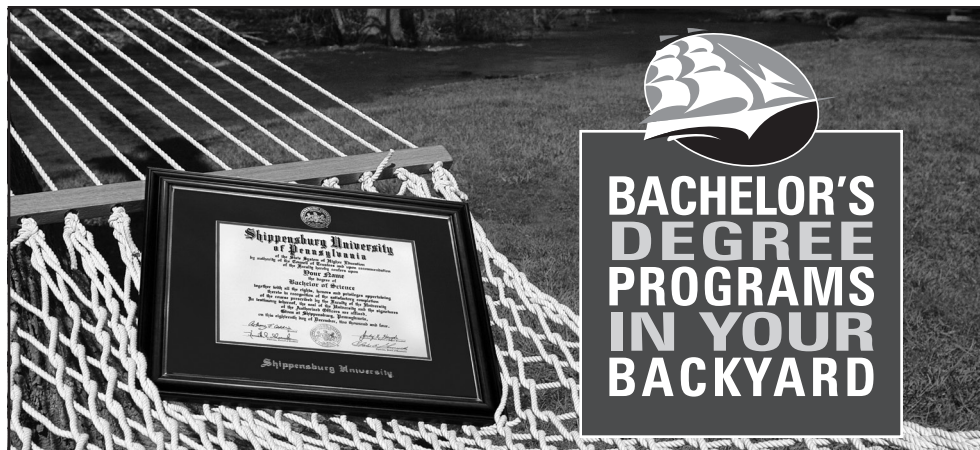
HACC Glass Club Photos with the Easter Bunny: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 4 and 5 in the Cooper International Room.

Allies: We Are GLOW Food Sale: 10a.m. to 2 p.m. February 20, 25, and March 6 in the Cooper Lobby. All proceeds benefit Common Roads.

SI\SA Waffle Sale: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., February 19 in the Cooper Lobby. RECYCLEMANIA! Collecting aluminum, plastic, and plastic bags to re-use to crochet into mats for the homeless.

AASA Soul Food Sale: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., February 22 in the Cooper Lobby.

SGA: Election packets are available Monday, February 25 in the SGA office. Packets are due by 5 p.m. on March 18 in the Student Life Office C-107.



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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.

SGA EC: What is it and does it exist?

Student Government Association Executive Council is an enigma to most students. Here's why it is important.

By **Monica Graham**
Editor-in-Chief

Tuition hikes. Class availability. Lunch options. Smoking on campus. These are all legitimate student concerns. What students may not be aware of is that there is a place to have their concerns addressed.

Issues and concerns impacting students can be brought up to their respective campus Student Government Association. It doesn't stop there. For college-wide concerns such as smoking, they are brought to the Student Government Association Executive Council, which consists of two ambassadors from each campus. In its current makeup, the members consist of each campus SGA president, and an additional SGA senator.

Kadijah Kastriba, 32, president of the Harrisburg SGA and the HACC SGA EC says, "It's an opportunity for all campuses to come together and explore issues that would affect students on a college-wide level."

Unfortunately, the SGA EC was off to a slow start this past semester due to the reorganization. Scott Simonds, Gettysburg Campus dean of student affairs & enrollment management, was assigned as advisor to the SGA EC in July 2012, and he admits that having to work around five different schedules for each SGA made it difficult to agree on a scheduled meeting time for the SGA EC. After several failed attempts, the first meeting was held December 17, 2012.

Kastriba agrees that they had "growing pains" but says they are hitting things head on. Leadership was set up in order

to get things started, and the remainder of the meetings were established. During the second meeting held January 25, an agenda was agreed upon. Kastriba says they plan to revamp the SGA EC constitution, go over administrative procedures as part of shared governance, and cohesively work together as campuses to share campus events and be more inclusive.

They are also planning the creation of a taskforce to evenly divide Virtual Campus student activity dollars, which were in excess of \$800,000 as of June 30, 2012. Jazmin Simpson, virtual campus student success manager, says they are looking at how best to use the funds, as they need to benefit the students. She says surveys have been placed online through WebCT (and now looking for a D2L retool), as well as questions posted on their Facebook page, with little success. "We've tried to organize a Virtual Campus SGA, and we even had one president, but it just isn't working," she says.

The meeting held by the SGA EC on February 22 had plenty of discussion, but it seemed that not all the ambassadors were prepared. APs were to be discussed, but Douglas Falcone, an SGA EC ambassador, lamented the fact that some of the board was completely unprepared. Three APs had to be postponed, to be voted on the following meeting. Neil Grover, Jr., SGA EC ambassador and Harrisburg SGA senator, regarding the postponement, said, "They could move forward as long as most of the ambassadors were familiar with the subject, they just weren't in this case."



LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

The Harrisburg SGA executive board meets in adviser Fazio's office to go over bills and proposals on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Concerning a pilot program emailed out to students last semester in place of the SEEQs (student evaluations of their classes), Kastriba says it's not a primary agenda item. "We have a whole constitution to write before we can tackle anything else." But she does plan on asking Faculty Organization President, Pam Watkins, why it was sent out without student involvement and input.

Kastriba says, "We would like to flex our

student government muscles and let the faculty and administrators know we do care." With only six meetings being held this semester, the SGA EC has much to cover. Kastriba says, "It does not seem like the student voice is as strong as it should be." And it's not. The SGA EC cannot bring student concerns to the table if they don't hear from the students.

You can bring any issue concerning you, the student, to any SGA meeting.
They are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Cooper 101.
Or to the SGA office.

Harrisburg Campus SGA Ambassadors to the SGA EC:
President: Kadijah Kastriba
Ambassador: Neil Grover Jr.

LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

Harrisburg SGA

Who they are and what they've been up to

By **Monica Graham**
Editor-in-Chief

Current SGA:

Adviser: Jeff Fazio

President: Kadijah Kastriba

Vice President: Nicole DuPree

Treasurer: Kendra Haines

Secretary: Arthur Guise

Senators: Neil Grover Jr., Robert Hall, David Heath, Leif Johnson, Lindsey Jones, K.C. Mackey, Matthew Manotti, Daniel Markowski, Brent Miller, Duane Troyer, Audrey Ulsh, and T.J. Zinn

Bills brought up:

Fall 2012

Aug - Dec: 35 total

16 appointments and removals of senators

19 allocations of funds

Spring 2013

Jan - May: 19 so far

14 appointments and removals of senators

5 allocations of funds

Items of note

Hawk's nest at Midtown has been finished.

The Student Government Association of the Harrisburg campus kept busy over the winter break. They participated in orientation, and researched documents from the SGA constitution and the SGA bylaws. Now that the semester has started, they continue to be busy.

The first meeting of the semester, held January 14, started with two of the executive board members stepping down from their positions: Rachael Cichy from VP and Bobby Potter from Secretary. Some rearranging had to be done in order to fill those positions, but Kadijah Kastriba, SGA President, appointed her e-board from the senators available: Nicole DuPree was moved into the VP position, Kendra Haines took over the Treasurer position that DuPree vacated, and Arthur Guise was appointed Secretary.

But with election packets becoming available February 25, who knows what the make-up will be? Look to the left for more SGA updates.



Back row: Adviser Fazio, Senators Ulsh, Markowski, and Grover, Secretary Guise, Senators Heath and Johnson. **Middle section:** Senators Troyer, Miller, Zinn, President Kastriba, Senators Mackey, and Spangler. **Bottom:** Treasurer Haines and Senator Manotti.

SGA election packets will be available in the SGA office February 25, and are due back by 5 p.m. March 18 to the Student Life Office.

Former Exec. V.P. charged with \$228k theft

By **Shawn Reed**
Assistant Editor, *Live Wire*

Additional Reporting By Allison Stark
Associate Editor, *The Fourth Estate*

Nancy Rockey, former HACC executive vice president, was arrested and charged on January 3, 2013, on charges of unlawful taking or disposition. According to documents filed by the Dauphin County district attorney's office, Rockey is charged with allegedly stealing approximately \$228,000 dollars from HACC between 2007 and 2012.

HACC officials became aware of the alleged theft in February 2012 while Rockey was still employed. Rockey, then a HACC employee of 31 years, made a personal expenditure on her HACC issued credit card in the amount of \$4,000 dollars in February of 2012. HACC officials state that once Rockey was confronted, she apologized and agreed to reimburse the college for the charge, which she did. An internal three year audit was then performed in which several allegedly fraudulent charges were discovered. Charges allegedly included personal payments for Rockey's utility bills, Amazon and Target gift cards, and text books which never appeared. According to the affidavit of probable cause, in an interview conducted on December 5, 2012,

Rockey admitted to the charges.

According to a statement by HACC President John Sygielski, Ed.D. obtained by Lancaster's Live Wire and Harrisburg's The Fourth Estate, the primary focus for HACC, "Remains providing quality education for our students and community." The college has implemented several measures

p-cards (purchase cards) which require an expense report to be submitted along with the use of the card. According to the statement provided by Dr. Sygielski, new programs will be initiated, including, but not limited to, reduction in monthly and per transaction limits, closing of infrequently used cards, expanding purchasing card user

Rockey is charged with allegedly stealing approximately \$228,000 dollars from HACC

to ensure tighter measures on expenditures. "We have a different mentality about fiscal responsibility and accountability," said Dr. Sygielski in the statement. In addition to a new mentality regarding fiscal matters, the college is also taking a more proactive role in prevention of employee theft and fraud by issuing fewer college credit cards, and "establishing a task force to focus on strengthening fiscal controls."

The effects of the arrest are already being felt on HACC campuses across the system. Several college employees are issued

and supervisor training programs, and the institution of a zero tolerance policy for abuse. The college is also expanding use of procurement and purchasing software and early intervention training for violators of the new policy.

Rockey is free on \$250,000 bail, awaiting trial on the charges. Unlawful taking or disposition (PA criminal code subsection 3921) in an amount greater than \$100,000 dollars is a third degree felony and may result in fines, restitution, or a maximum prison term of seven years.



COURTESY: HACC

Nancy Rockey, former HACC executive vice president, in a HACC publicity photo taken prior to her arrest.

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Students react to security following abduction on campus

By Elizabeth Hewitt
Contributing Writer

Although young female students feel as though the Department of Security at Harrisburg Area Community College is doing a respectable job in making people feel safe, many have started taking extra precautions after the incident that occurred early on the morning of December 4, 2012.

Many students at HACC's main campus were focusing on the stress the end of a semester always brings, but no one could have anticipated what was to occur on the early morning of December 4. Right around the time that the 8am classes were to begin, a young female student was attacked and abducted from the HACC parking lot. Many students got the text from HACC to be careful, and although the text gave everyone a brief account and description of the abductor, it was hard to feel safe.

"When I first started going to HACC in the fall of 2012 I was a little hesitant about what security would be like,

but once I got there I was pleasantly surprised." said Kathryn McDevitt, 20, business, "Nothing has changed really, even though I've definitely noticed more security since the abduction and I now carry pepper spray."

KelLee Warren, 20, general studies,

"I felt pretty safe before and after. However, I was unhappy with the fact that school was still in session the day it happened and they didn't tell us until hours after it happened."

added, "I've always felt safe at HACC, and besides the day of the abduction and evacuation, I still feel that way about HACC." When asked about what precautions she might take KelLee said, "This is the first semester I will be leaving campus at night, and after the recent occurrence I do usually make sure I leave with someone." Harley

Stine, 21, elementary education, felt that something like that would never happen at HACC. She went on to say, "I was just disappointed with the fact that if an abduction could happen in the morning when the security is there then I'm not safe leaving my evening class

in the dark at 8pm. I would walk with a friend to my car every night I had class. I feel safe because the security is now aware of what happens when they're not on top of their game."

The mass text that was sent out by HACC's e2Campus service was helpful, but created a lot of uncertainty. Abby Resavy, 21, general studies, said,

"I felt pretty safe before and after. However, I was unhappy with the fact that school was still in session the day it happened and they didn't tell us until hours after it happened. They could've handled it better."

The e2Campus service is still fairly new, but it definitely was helpful in getting the word out faster. Arin Eppig, 21, biology said, "The texts were very helpful and HACC handled it well. I think it made me more aware." Jennifer A., 21, psychology also added, "I feel that e2campus alerts are very helpful because they informed me on the abduction and the different updates, which helped to put me at ease."

Even with all the security HACC provides, it is still very important for students to be aware of their surroundings, take precautions, and to take advantage of helpful services like e2Campus to keep students conscious of dangerous situations and create a safer environment.



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Spring Club Rush

By Kent Sariano
Contributing Writer

January 23 – The Cooper International room was filled with enthusiastic students for this semester’s installation of Club Rush, an event where student organizations promote themselves to prospective members.

Over fifteen clubs set up unique table displays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., reaching out to students with similar interests. Among the organizations present at Club Rush this semester were The SGA, Allies, L.I.N.K.E.D., The Fourth Estate, and SI/SA.

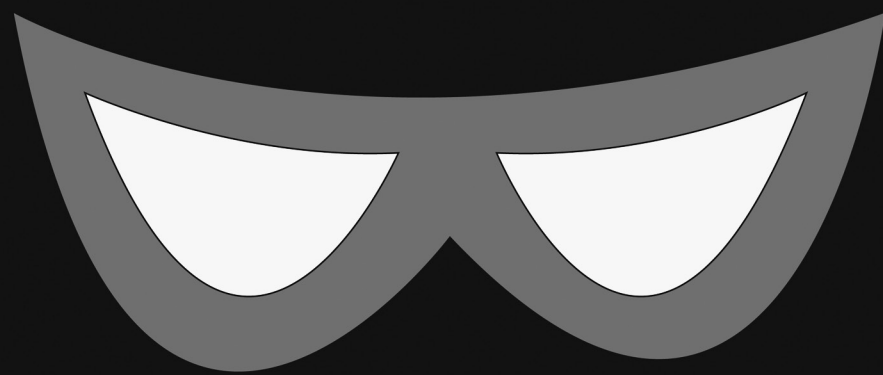
The gathering, held each semester, is designed so clubs can represent their interests while recruiting new members, a process which is vital to their existence. Chris Ketchum, a member of H.A.C.C. J.A.C.C., the Japanese Anime and Culture Club, said his club participated in the event to, “educate people in Japanese culture, animation, art, and entertainment.” The club displayed a wide array of Japanese fanfare, including Manga, Pocky, and Anime screenings to draw students in.

Club Rush also allows students to get involved with the H.A.C.C. community via student organizations. Throughout the day, students drifted between the rows of tables, learning about the college’s different clubs. Jessica Peters, a Theater major, said she came to Club Rush to, “show support for her school and SI/SA.” Clubs collected interested students’ e-mail addresses and provided them with meeting times.

Music for Club Rush was provided by Crazy Bob. Popular dance songs blared from the speakers as students chatted. At one point a dance-off broke out, but it wasn’t until Crazy Bob played “Gangnam Style,” by Korean pop artist Psy, that the event heated up. Students stopped cold, and smiles slowly crept up their faces as the song’s first synth notes rang out. Suddenly, as if on cue, students began performing the song’s popular dance routine, trotting wildly around Cooper. The impromptu dance routine, compliments of H.A.C.C.’s league of quirky students, induced laughter, and made for a memorable Club Rush.



SI\SA kicks off the annual RecycleMania event to motivate students to maintain an eco-friendly campus. Left to Right: Matthew Manotti, Kent Sariano, Megan Dickson. Front: Belinda Eigen.



WHERE ARE YOU
GOING TO BE
MAY 3

Men's basketball team had a rough season

Many HACC students don't know that HACC has a basketball team, let alone the fact that they can be a part of it.

By Josh Brown
Sports Editor

Did you play basketball in high school? Do you enjoy playing a game of five-on-five pickup at the local gym or park? Are you under the age of 26 and currently enrolled as a full-time student at HACC? If you answered yes to these questions, the Hawks, HACC's basketball team, want you.

Yes, HACC has a basketball team. "Most students and even some faculty don't know that HACC has a basketball team and it's sad," says Randy Tobias. Tobias is in his first year as the Head Coach of HACC's men's basketball team. Prior to being promoted, he was the assistant coach for the past five years. "It's really tough when we have twelve, then three and now five kids," continues Tobias.

Tobias is convinced that the struggles the team has been facing this year (and years past) are a direct result of the lack of interest in or knowledge of the basketball team here at HACC.

The team does cover all of HACC's campuses, Harrisburg, Lebanon, York, Gettysburg and Lebanon. While this provides a bigger pool from which to select players, it also makes it harder for any players to make it to the practices considering the team is based at the Harrisburg campus. Even if kids wanted to play on the

team, they would still be required to drive anywhere from 30-70 minutes one way just to attend a two-hour practice.

This is where HACC's lack of housing becomes an issue. Most of the colleges that HACC competes against in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) have some sort of housing, giving them a leg up on the Hawks.

Aside from the transportation and housing issues, the fact that there is only two years of eligibility really hurts team chemistry and team building. "By the time I build a team and get them to play well with each

"We strive to make these kids professionals. They are a student first and an athlete second."

other, they're all gone and I have new kids. It's very tough but that's what I need to do and get better at. That's my job. I

wouldn't change it for the world though. I love this," explains Tobias.

While Tobias tries to get these kids to play well together and win, he knows that most, if not all, of them will be going pro in something other than basketball. "We really work on getting them to keep their grades up because we know most of these kids are going into a career after HACC. We strive to make these kids professionals. They are a student first and an athlete second," states Tobias.

The grades are another factor that is resulting in so few players being able to stay on the team. Just like



Lengthy commutes from HACC's other campuses make recruiting new players hard.

all colleges that offer athletics, students must keep a certain grade point average to be able to be on the team and must be enrolled in no less than 12 credits.

The men's team this year has had little to cheer about. They finished the year with a 5-15 record.

Tobias is looking forward to rebuilding the team for next year. He plans to hold a number of open gyms and clinics throughout the off-season. He will use these to build chemistry with his returning players and also to evaluate new players that are hopeful to join the Hawks next season.

The talent hasn't been an issue. The Hawks have two freshmen that played in high school: Mike McCray from Harrisburg, and Pedro Sperb from Brazil. They also have two players looking at playing at the next level. Sperb is looking to transfer to Messiah to play while David Randolph might be headed to Penn State's Harrisburg campus.



The Lady Hawks persevered through a season rife with challenges.

Lady Hawks survived season

By Amanda Hodgkinson
Staff Writer

The Lady Hawks basketball team is like the little engine that could. Starting the second half of their season the women's basketball team only had four players and was forced to reschedule a game because they didn't have enough players to start. Then came teammate number five who helped the Lady Hawks resume playing.

The week of February 4, the fearsome five proved their playoff ability. The Hawks had three games back to back, and on February 5, the Hawks knocked off the Bucks 83-38, to confirm their spot in the 2012-2013 playoffs.

To the other teams, the Lady Hawks had looked like an easy win, but they had proven that they deserved to be in the playoffs just as much as everyone else. Each game they came out of the locker room with their game faces on ready to make every three pointer, lay up, and foul shot. They weren't afraid of an aggressive game, and with two high scoring players on the team, Tawni Ruby and Krista Hoffman, it's no wonder why they soon lost the 'easy win' moniker.

On February 7, the Lady Hawks continued their quest to be number one. Early in the second half the Hawks were down by eight points against Montgomery when Shaquana Watson fouled out of the game with fifteen minutes left of regulation. It was a 4 vs. 5 game and the

Lady Hawks were down by eight points.

Miraculously, the girls pulled it together. They played hard defense, were able to chip away at the eight points, and get within one point. The clock ticked down to 13 seconds and Amanda Hodgkinson took the ball up to the basket and got fouled. She headed to the foul line and sunk one of her two shots and into overtime the Hawks went. The girls went on to beat Montgomery 74-65.

With only five players on the team, that didn't leave any room for mistakes. No one could foul out of the games. There were no substitutions; just five girls from start to finish playing a hard 40 minutes of basketball.

The next game was on February 9, when the Hawks took on the Lehigh Carbon Mustangs. This is the game where everything fell apart for the ladies. Early in the first half, Hodgkinson suffered an injury to her wrist, though she played on. The Lady Hawks suffered a loss to the Mustangs 41-75. Later in the week, Hodgkinson found out that she broken her wrist and thus, the Lady Hawk's playoff season was over.

The women's basketball team overcame challenges, and did the unthinkable when they came back from behind. Everyone loves an underdog, and with only four girls, they were able to beat a team by nine points in overtime. The Lady Hawks had an outstanding season. Next year, they hope to win again, but perhaps they will have more players.

Superbowl - is the drama real or fixed?

By Alexander Goodlive
Staff Writer

"This really feels like a pro wrestling match."

No, that wasn't my girlfriend's comment about the latest reality show, nor was it in complete jest because I am a former professional wrestler. Rather, it was a well-directed, well-informed comment made in hopes of getting a similar reaction out of me while watching this year's Super Bowl.

Now, most red-blooded, football-loving Americans don't want to hear things like that. They'd like to believe that the biggest spectacle in all of sports is completely legitimate, and as someone who has their favorite mascot tattooed on their left forearm, so would I. However, take a look at the NFL in general in recent years and tell me things aren't just a little too convenient.

Isn't it a little convenient that Ray Lewis, one of the game's biggest defensive stars, announces he's playing his last season before the playoffs start, and he happened to get to win the Super Bowl? It's a shame that's never happened before... Oh wait, it has. Ask John Elway or Jerome Bettis.

Isn't it a little convenient that what looked like a blowout this year at 28-6, blackout notwithstanding, that San Francisco came back and brought it down to the wire? It might just seem that way... if it wasn't the tenth year in a row that happened. Blowouts equal terrible ratings. Terrible ratings equal loss in advertising. When you're paying CBS 3.8 million dollars for commercial time, do you want them tuned out by the second half? The NFL didn't want a blowout. Ask the BCS. A record amount of people tuned in to the BCS Championship Game... until Alabama treated Notre Dame like a third-rate FCS team, and ratings steadied back out to average at best.

Now I'm not saying that football games are entirely rigged. It'd be almost impossible to coordinate such things. I am saying that the NFL may have an idea of who they want in the Super Bowl, and how they want the game to go. When you have that much money invested in something, it'd be frivolous to say there isn't a result for which they are hoping. The NFL even said themselves what teams they wanted in the Super Bowl this year when they made two commercials about their event in the pre-season. One involved a guy pretending to be the coach of a team,

MCT/CAMPUS



Was Super Bowl XLVII just a little too good to be true?

and the other involved a little girl asking a certain future-retiring linebacker interview questions. What a surprise, those two teams were the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.

Look, I love football, and I really hope it's just a coincidence that the one big name who announced he was retiring before the season got all the media attention in the world, got glorified despite having a less than reputable past, and was the

biggest part of the game short of only the brother-vs-brother storyline. I really hope it was just a coincidence that the Super Bowl game seemed a bit too much like a pro wrestling match where the good guy seems down and out of it, but suddenly makes a miraculous comeback and appears to be in position to win the game, but they come just short in the end. I don't want to believe any of these things.

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AMERICANS & THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

3 STUDENTS TAKE AIM AT A HEATED ISSUE

Gun CONTROL: Love Will Tear Us Apart Again

By Dashiell C. Glace
Contributing Writer

Any good ARGUMENT is a definition of exact terms. An example would be the difference that statement and the statement “any good DEBATE is a definition of exact terms”. They both mean the exact same thing but the connotations are the difference between conflict and open discourse. That bit of rhetoric being said, let’s take a look at the idea of gun control. Are we actually talking about gun control? Specifically, is control the best word for this debate? If we are talking about gun control, then we are discussing who should have them and who should decide. We already technically have gun control, but in a very limited sense. In fact, we have less control over who has guns than who has cars. Can felons [legally] own guns? No. That is a form of control, but it does not seem to upset anyone. Since there is not a test on intent before owning a gun, that seems more like an act of cleaning up after the fact, so does control work? Can we expand the idea of gun control or, less confrontationally, put gun laws in place to better suit the needs of a growing and changing populace from the time of this country’s founding? I say this because if we were to just follow the Constitution and the founding fathers blindly, then we might as well be following the Magna Carta and be under the rule of a god king monarch. These are important documents but in no way were the writers granted ex cathedra and the reason we do not have the Ten Commandments in front of court houses is because they are not subject to peer review.

I have heard a lot of arguments which cite hunting. The act of hunting is traditional and cultural in many places. That being said - why own the guns? Could there not be an armory? Guns being considered a constitutional right could even be extended toward making it a place where taxes could be spent, since taxes should be funding for community projects that unify us

because we can all agree upon them. This is to say, as an American, at a chosen age you would be allowed to check a gun out just like a book from a library. It would be maintained by a professional and could come with an education on its safety and even a course in the ethics of guns. We already have a socialized education system and library system. State game lands are the same concept, but now it would extend further to firearms. We could make these armories state or local government run so it would not be the federal government telling you what to do, but instead your neighbors.

Now I am sure there are those of us that would like to follow this remark with the argument, “What if we need to have a revolutionary war against our own government”? As a veteran, I find this to be the statement that truly exposes how bad our education system has gotten. We no longer use the same weapons in our military as we do in our personal home ownership – our military evolved past black powder weapons a long time ago. Any legally owned gun is already controlled, as in the government knows you have it and where. To think that our fast food, service industry-based society still produces people of physical stature, in the quantity and mind set, to combat a trained soldier is ridiculous. It is a point of national pride how we have the strongest military in the world, how well do you actually think civilians would fair against it?

The stereotype is that all Texans love and own guns. Using this easily-disproved stereotype as a catalyst, I want to present the Alamo as my counterpoint. It is the story of our best frontiersmen of the time, our best home gun owners about a hundred years after our revolution and about one hundred years before the present. Here we find the Mexican army, a nation we still very much view as inferior, in a land dispute with Texan settlers. This standing army crushed the forces at the Alamo. In fact, the cruelty used during the siege is what inspired the forming of a legitimate force with training to finally carve what we now know as Texas out of the Southwest of our planet’s Northwestern hemisphere.

So, that being said about a civilian force that at least had the same grade of weapon but dif-

ferent levels of combat readiness and training, let’s take a look at the present. Drones aside, I worked on an aircraft carrier. There was not a single weapon aboard that I believe we as a civilian collective could ever fathom fighting against. Look how divided we are about just this one issue. There is no room or time for debate in the military. There is no debate whom to listen to. The supply chains and bases are already reinforced on our soil. The weapons and training are so far removed from our own abilities it would be over before it starts. This is even before taking into consideration that through current and agreed upon gun CONTROL the government does not need to guess where these weapons are, they know. That means no matter how hard you think you are, if they want to take that gun from you, then you would simply not have a gun. It is not a matter of conceptual debate: we have the best and biggest military and some of the softest civilians in the world. We submit everyday as wage slaves. We need to start looking at our abilities to arm ourselves if this to be an actual position to be taken seriously.

Now I am sure we all know members of the military and would like to think that they would desert rather than shoot upon a civilian collective. I can think of numerous peaceful protests that have ended in police and military violence, and as much as we like to act like these combatants are faceless they are not. There are interpersonal debates of right and wrong in everyone. These proud men and women and open gays have still actively made the choice that might equals right. Now let’s see how a protest that will, no doubt, attract gun wielders on both sides fares. Ralph Waldo Emerson would most likely call it the second shot heard round the world.

This brings me back to the point I started with: definitions. What is a gun? We treat it as a tool when defending it, making statements such as “guns don’t kill people, people kill people”. This type of statement makes a gun out to be just a thing. The thing about all things encompassed by the realm of reality is that nothing exists without a reason or purpose. While I understand that hunting once provided sustenance, I believe that ever since the advent of agricul-

ture in our more nomadic days we have been moving away from this idea of the great hunt. We are now advanced enough that we can pick what we want to eat, not just what is available. Still, let’s say we take the military sense out of guns, and even take out lone gunmen committing violent crimes, and we just focus on defining guns by this tradition of hunting and guns as a tool of it. It is still a tool of death. It is not like a knife, where it is a tool that can be used in various ways, one of which is to kill. If efficiency can be considered beautiful, then the gun is a runaway model for efficient death.

Finally, let’s end with patriotism, since that seems to be what is being treated as the issue. In a country where everyone

can find a way to marginalize and subjugate each other into groups of right or left, Christian or Muslim, conservative or liberal, gay or straight, socialist or capitalist, American or not American, we enslave ourselves with dualities. These are monotheistic style ideas - that there is only one right and therefore everything else must be wrong. This, again, is not the idea of our Constitution. It is set up to allow for Socratic debate (or dialectics). Without it we could not have the republic we do, but I feel like we have departed from traditional cannons of rhetoric. I feel as if we find ourselves too worried about pedantic details that cause holy crusades of belief systems. In this environment, I do not want people armed. Until we can start finding more secular beliefs, we should not proliferate arms between neighbors. If you do not feel safe, that is an issue of infrastructure, not gun control. We have always been a nation of innovators. Maybe the next innovation might be peace as a way to promote our most sacred of all patriotic dogmas: personal freedoms and the right to the pursuit of happiness (which you cannot pursue if you are dead). If I have to fear my neighbor, then I am enslaved and imprisoned by my own home. The first step is much like that for larger weapons like nuclear weapons: the realization that no one wins with them. We simply must stop having them in circulation. It becomes a question of if you would rather live on your knees in fear of your neighbor, or die standing for the next step in how we view human interaction and the divinity of our own lives.

Get your facts straight before you argue for gun control

By Brent Miller
Contributing Writer

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution: A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

A bit of context is necessary to understand why the founding fathers believed that the right to bear arms was the second most important amendment. The first amendment proclaimed that no law could be passed that would interfere with the following freedoms: speech, religion, the press, peaceable assembly, and government petitioning for a redress of grievances. It has oft been said that the second amendment guarantees all others, and when you sit down and think about it, the realization will come that without a citizenry passionate about their rights, willing AND able to defend them, those rights can be taken away. Unchallenged, unconstitutional laws become precedent, and soon people will find themselves backed into a corner, with no way to take back their rights.

This is where the founding fathers found themselves almost 340 years ago.

In 1954, Enlai Zhou said, “all diplomacy is a continuation of war by other means.” This would have been appropriate when the Redcoats arrived to enforce the laws of Britain. The colonials had exhausted all other forms of diplomacy, and in order to defend the rights that they

believed were inherent to all men, they had to resist. They understood that in order to prevent their new government from becoming a new tyranny they had to put in writing the citizen’s ability to defend themselves, even against the government, in order to protect their freedoms. I am well aware of the differing opinions on guns and our right to keep and bear them. Think of it like this, does anyone think that we should ban a religion because society defines it as “bad”? If the majority had their way, would we disallow Amish children access to a high school education? Are there attempts to legislate Amish children into high school, “for the good of the children”? No. Does anyone even question this, or do they merely accept that it is their right as an exercise of their freedom of religion? Why is it not the same for the right to bear arms?

The second amendment was too vague in what it protected; in not clearly defining its protections, corners have been chipped off. Fun Facts: ASSAULT RIFLES, weapons that can be fired automatically, meaning they require only one press of the trigger for a continuous stream of firing, have effectively been banned since 1986. ASSAULT WEAPONS are semi-automatic weapons, requiring a trigger press for each round to be fired.

They also look kind of like assault rifles. To use an analogy, an M-16(“assault rifle”) is to an AR-15(“assault weapon”), as a motorcycle is to a bicycle, except that that bicycle has a frame that looks like a motorcycle: fenders, headlights, a radio, etc. Still, when you get to the actual workings of the bike, one pedal push gets you one distance. A motorcycle does that pushing automatically.

Imagine there were several recent incidents of vehicular homicide and an opinion was circulating that in order to prevent such heinous crimes, we should ban vehicles that go too fast. Should we ban those bikes that look like motorcycles, merely because they look like they could go fast and therefore look dangerous? No. Should we do the same for assault weapons because they look like assault rifles? I think not. This is simply an underhanded trick to try and fool an ignorant populace. Ignorance is simply being unaware of the facts.

Too often, both sides of mainstream political ideology use scary, undefined words to goad a populace kept ignorant in one direction or the other. Have you ever heard the terms sheep, sheeple, etc., in the context of “just following because you think you should, without knowing or even wondering why?” The burden to be informed falls on our shoulders, and it would be prudent to know both sides of an issue so that your beliefs can be challenged and a stronger viewpoint formed. By having a comprehensive understanding of the issue, you will be able to see where someone who disagrees with you is coming from and allow you to relate to them more meaningfully, and hopefully respectfully. Remember, being louder doesn’t make you right.

In 2008, the Supreme Court majority opinion (District of Columbia v. Heller), defined the “well regulated” part of well regulated militia as nothing more than the imposition of proper discipline and training. I believe that the duty of a citizen wishing to exercise this right is to be properly trained and disciplined, in the same manner that it is a duty of the citizen to not commit libel while exercising their right to freedom

of speech.

Gun Free Zones such as those found around schools, amount to signs saying, “Hey criminal, if you bring your gun here you are breaking extra laws, but you are guaranteed to be the only person here with a gun so who is going to stop you?” Pennsylvania Act 235 details the process necessary to obtain certification to carry a weapon as part of employment. This applies to armored car drivers, security guards, etc. The process to acquire an Act 235 certification

is thorough, and includes background checks as well as physical and psychological evaluation. I think we should require all school employees to obtain this certification, and a minimum number of armed employees present any time there are students in the building. I would not infringe on the personal beliefs of the employees, however, if the minimum amount of employees could not be found to fulfill this role, then the salary budget should be made to allow the hiring of someone willing to serve this function.

Making people more defenseless is no way to defend them. The PA State Constitution very bluntly states, “The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.” We, as a citizenry, should be proactive in defending our rights, and I believe that expecting the government to do this for us would be like hiring a fox to guard the hen house. To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, the sixth President (Governor) of Pennsylvania, any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.

Cultural infighting overshadows human tragedies

By Alexander Goodlive
Staff Writer

I’m sick of hearing about guns. I’m sick of hearing about gun control. I’m sick of the entire argument, the debate, and everything surrounding it.

The last year alone has provided some horrific incidents that have the entire country in cross-fire...no pun intended. Most recently was the tragedy of Sandy Hook, where young children were gunned down in a small Connecticut town.

What has transpired as a result of this infamous event? Accusing the President of pretending to cry. Because, you know, a man with two children thinking about a nut-job going into an elementary school and killing children might not actually affect someone in his position. Fighting on both sides about the Second Amendment, ranging from teaching kindergartners how to fire handguns to removing all weapons entirely. And, most notoriously, a viral YouTube video (that was thoroughly debunked by a Reddit user in minutes) that uses media hysteria surrounding



the event as evidence that the government somehow unleashed a massive conspiracy in order to enforce stricter gun control.

Politics come into even the darkest of moments. This country is so obsessed with the fact that assault rifles might be harder to get that they’ve accused their own government of conspiring to murder school children in order to further their own agenda.

Why were there holes in the stories on the news programs? Because the media has to report everything as it happens instead of waiting for the facts to emerge. Why? If they don’t, people tune out and find another channel that is spewing absolutes, whether or not they’re actually true. Imagine how, in that kind of environment, some inconsistencies and inaccuracies might happen...

I also have to wonder how it is that people who think the government can’t do anything right also happen to think that the government can put together massive covert operations within their own country in order to trick its citizens into believing that angry terrorists flew planes into a building or that a mentally ill man murdered people in a theater or children in an elementary school. How can they be bad at everything and yet adept at creating false tragedy?

What I hate most of all is that I even have to acknowledge these things. School children get killed, and the argument is about firearms, who gets to keep them, and what might happen to them. I don’t have a problem with law-abiding citizens who own guns. I do have a problem that assault rifles and automatic weapons are so easy to get. I do have a problem that after every tragedy involving firearms, the righteous and justified rise up to say that something must be done... as long as it doesn’t affect the methods in which it was perpetrated in any way whatsoever. People clamor for change, as long as nothing really changes.

What the argument isn’t about is how to help those families that were destroyed by such events taking place, or what can be done to prevent something like this from happening again. What the argument is about is guns: keeping them, banning them, hiding them, and training more people to use them. Either side of the debate, it’s all about guns. I don’t even have a side because I’m just tired of hearing about it. People are boycotting an outdoor show because

certain guns won’t be there. That makes people who love guns proud, because unless there are assault rifles at this show, there is no point in going? Why is this even a thing?!

I know people are passionate, and I realize this debate strikes a chord with many, especially in this area, where hunting is very prominent. I’m not talking about that.

I don’t have an opinion about guns, and regardless of what side I would take, people are so passionate and insistent that their position is the only one that nothing will ever get done. I’m not against the Second Amendment, but I also notice that no blame can ever be put on how easy it is to get these things. I don’t take a side. I don’t have guns, I don’t want guns, but I’m not against people having theirs.

Chardon, Sandy Hook, Aurora... something is wrong, but I don’t know what. I do know if someone did, they would immediately be shot down for daring to offer a solution.

Hugs and prayers are the only acceptable solutions right now. This is a time where everyone should hug their kids. This is a time where we should take nothing for granted. I don’t have the blessing of believing in prayer or that there’s a God listening to me, so the best I can do is grieve for those who were lost and those who lost someone, as they are here and will never be the same.

Instead of attacking each other on the extremes of both sides of an argument about guns, I wish we could come up with practical solutions that might have a chance of preventing something like this, and I’m not talking about good guys with guns stopping bad guys with guns, nor the Bob Costas method of Jovan Belcher not having a gun preventing the events that took place. What is it about the American psyche that instigates mass violence? What is it about this country that triggers so many people into such infamous acts? Why do so many people end up shooting each other? Why do these mostly young white males snap and needlessly end so many lives?

I don’t know. I don’t pretend to know. I just do not anticipate the inevitable next tragedy, and the continuation of this very same argument ensuing thereafter. I don’t know what it is that needs to be done, but haven’t enough things happened to make us all realize that the status quo is no longer acceptable?



ALL PHOTOS: LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

Finding a fit for Honors Studies program

By Allison Stark

Associate Editor

Judi Ungar, assistant director of the new honors studies program, is excited. After a total redesign, two school years, and two changes in leadership, the HACC Honors Studies degree program is up and running. “We finally figured out who our target audience is, because that was kind of tricky,” she says.

In addition to incoming high school seniors, the new degree program is aimed at current HACC students who have a 3.25 GPA but who have only taken 18 credits or less. This is because 30 credits (or half of the degree requirements) must be honors classes to earn the Honors Studies associate degree. Students who are accepted into the program work with Director of Honors Studies Heather Burns, a counselor at York campus, to tailor their classes to fulfill both the Honors Studies major and their transfer requirements for a 4-year school.

Although transfer agreements with regional 4-year schools have to be re-established based on the new structure of the honors program, Burns and Ungar are already pursuing Honors transfer agreements with Dickinson, McDaniel, Wilson, and Shippensburg. One major local transfer school is already on board. “The really nice thing I’d like to stress is that we do have this signed agreement with Penn State Harrisburg, which is honors to honors, so that if you graduated from HACC with an Honors Studies degree, you would automatically be accepted into Penn State Honors,” says Ungar. Students who finish a year at PSU Harrisburg are then automatically accepted into the prestigious Shreyer Honors College, although they can continue to attend the Harrisburg campus.

Ungar says the advantages of earning an honors degree extend beyond the academic. Speaking of the friendships developed among the students currently enrolled in the program, she says, “I think, especially at a commuter school, where it’s very hard to get involved unless you march yourself into Cooperr. You go to Fall Free-for-All, you sign up to do something, that it’s very hard to find a cohort of people you feel comfortable with, you can share things with, and they really do respect each other because they come from such different backgrounds.”

Kadijah Kastriba, 32, honors studies, agrees, saying, “The foundations seminar was special. Very rarely does a student get to be in a class with just two other people. We really got to know each other and the professor. Now in the spring, Matthew Manotti, K.C. Mackey, and I can all say we have someone we can count on.”

Currently, though there are only three students in the degree program, there are 79 enrolled in honors classes. With a minimum enrollment requirement of seven students, and a cap of 15, most courses this semester are in the double digits.

Matthew Manotti, 19, honors studies-

ALLISON STARK/TFE



Professor David Liu teaches Honors Introduction to Sociology to a packed house.

specialization history and psychology, says he chose the honors studies degree program because it offered more challenges than typical classes. “It’s small, specialized, challenging, and really entertaining.”

The foundations seminar, a class specific to the new major, was rolled out for the first time this fall. Taught by sociology professor David Liu, the class focused on education as critical thinking. Liu says the seminar was “fantastic,” and described the students as “really receptive and really open.” Designed as a workshop in the style of a graduate seminar, the students engaged in critical analysis of the educational system and self-critiques of their writing.

“We only had three students, so it was very intense,” says Liu. “As I said to them at the outset, you know learning is not easy, but if you really are committed to the process of learning, and especially to being a better writer and a better critical thinker, then you need to learn how to take criticism because we’re here to help you get better.”

Manotti says, “It was most difficult in terms of critical thinking. Professor Liu has an excellent method of making people go insane. Yes, and I say that in a pleasant way—that’s a compliment. Because when you go out of his classes, especially that class, you don’t stop thinking about what you’ve just learned because you’re always left with more questions.”

“The class itself was the most challenging class I have ever taken. I really learned how to develop my thoughts and writing. Professor Liu is what other students say about him - hard! For anyone that truly desires to

learn, they should take one of his classes,” says Kastriba.

Professor Liu is breaking more ground in his Honors Introduction to Sociology class this semester, partnering with the Social Inquiry/Social Action club to offer an optional overnight field trip to Philadelphia on March 22 to explore in person the sites used to study race relations in the book *The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life* by Elijah Anderson, which his class will be reading this semester.

“We’re going to try to do some kind of true experiential learning that’s not just

“I give the college credit because this is all part of a new initiative and I think it’s very exciting. You have to invest in the new to make things happen.”

finger-painting. I mean, you look at this analysis and you can see how it

comes to life in the context of the city,” Liu says. The honors program is helping with the cost, and Ungar and Burns were fully supportive of the idea of taking learning outside of the classroom. Liu says, “I give the college credit because this is all part of a new initiative and I think it’s very exciting. You have to invest in the new to make things happen.”

New ways of exploring the subjects they teach is a common thread among the honors professors. Associate English Professor Rick Albright, who is teaching Honors English 101 in the virtual campus this semester, has developed it as a completely different class from his regular 101 sections, down to using a different text, *Ways of Reading*. The essays in the new text are more complex, and the text itself is designed with the intent of reading each essay twice, with different questions to consider each time. Albright has used the text before at other schools,

and was excited to try it at HACC. He says, “I think it’s demanding more critical thinking and more making connections between some of the readings than I might typically do in my regular classes.”

Albright is embracing the interdisciplinary mindset of the new honors program by using locally-set book *The Blue Orchard* this semester. He was inspired by the First Annual Student Symposium at Midtown in April. “The theme is Imagining Central PA’s Future, so I had the idea of using *The Blue Orchard* as a way of kind of getting at Harrisburg’s past and how the politics, for instance – I call it the geopolitical forces – because they’re the political movements which helped to shape the city.” Albright is hoping to combine this with a book about the City Beautiful movement to have students work on a writing assignment that can be worked into the symposium.

English professor Iva Balic, who is teaching Honors English 102, is also trying new things with her honors class. Her students work in groups of three on a semester-long project on a topic of their choice, much as students would be expected to do on their own at a 4-year college. She says there is more work in her honors class than in her regular English 102 class, but that it’s not just pointless busywork, it’s something the students invest in. “It’s challenging, but I think because I give students a lot of freedom to decide what they want to work on and how they want to work on it, I am hoping they don’t perceive it as more work, they just perceive it as work that takes effort, but they know why they’re doing it and they want to be doing it.”

Philosophy professor Jonathon Gainor, who teaches Honors Ethics-Belief and Action, says the smaller class sizes in honors courses allow for more Socratic discussion and less lecture. He encourages his honors students to look outside of the textbook, and has them analyze articles in philosophy journals to learn more about issues which interest them. Gainor describes his honors students as self-starters, saying, “I tend to think that students who are honors students see education in terms of its intrinsic worth, as opposed to just its instrumental value.”

From the initial turnout, it appears HACC has plenty of students who agree. The college initially made a 3-year commitment to the new program in order to give it time to recruit students at local high schools, and both the directors and professors involved have faith that it will continue to grow.

Their optimism appears warranted, as President Ski recently touted the program in the January issue of Harrisburg Magazine, saying, “I think it’s important for us to be able to get the word out on the value of the community college and what role we play for valedictorians, honors students – we have a great honors program – and for those who may have never thought about college as an option.”

Remembering Lisa Farver

Faculty and students share their memories of the speech professor, Christian Student Fellowship adviser, and friend who passed away unexpectedly over the holidays.

By Monica Graham

Editor-in-Chief

“I remember how kind and funny she was.

Always with an uplifting, or affirmative quote,” Assistant Professor of Reading Linda Mininger says about Lisa Farver, “She had a way of looking at things, whether it was something funny she put on, like glasses or hats... she just always made us laugh.”

Her humor and positive outlook on life are what made Lisa Farver a favorite as a colleague, professor, adviser, and friend. A long time faculty member of the communications department, Lisa Farver passed away unexpectedly over winter break, on December 25.

Lisa’s dedication to her profession and her students was established by her actions. She was not only the Chair for Professional Growth & Development Committee for many years, but she also developed a speech anxiety seminar to help students conquer their fears of public speaking, and volunteered to be the adviser of the Christian Student Fellowship on the Harrisburg Campus last fall.

Caitlin Shemas, 22, human services and president of Christian Student Fellowship, says, “The one thing that I really want to get across is that she was more than just a teacher here. She wanted to know what was going on. To us, she was the one that really, really took enjoyment in what we did with her.”

Marie Ulmen, assistant professor of reading, echoes the sentiment. “My daughter does a radio show, and since she was a communicator, Lisa would take the time to stop what she was doing to watch Hannah talk about the news at the local radio station in upstate NY at 12:45 every Thursday,” she says.

Lisa was invested in helping her students grow. Professor of English and Reading Geri Gutwein says, “She expected her students to live up to high expectations and I think that’s really important for a teacher.” Mininger agrees, “Lisa was the kind of professor that would find a way to help a student, but she would always keep her standards where they needed to be for her class,” she says.

Richard Laird, 34, environmental science, says, “I was meaning to ask her to decode some of her handwriting on the grade sheets for my speeches. I got great grades, she was such a great teacher; it was just an excuse to visit her. She was so funny and full of life.”

Many students, and faculty, will miss her cheerful

demeanor and outgoing personality. Kelly Irwin, 20, and Sabrina Davis, 24, both commented on how nice she was. Molly Lemke, 21, enjoyed the stories she would tell in class, “She had many funny things to say about grammar and how it was used, like when a waiter says, ‘how can I get you started?’ when asking for your order.”

Lisa Farver didn’t let little inconveniences get in the way of being happy. “Every morning, when I unlocked my door, she would always say, ‘Good morning.’ She was always happy,” said Judy Dibert, senior professor of English/ESL/Spanish. “And I would always say, ‘I hate mornings. What’s so good about morning?’ She would do it on purpose, to get you to smile,” she says.

Many things amused Lisa Farver, from YouTube cat videos, to carrying around a little pouch in the shape of a sneaker – for her pencils. “She would laugh at anything – it was just so contagious and so heartfelt. It just made you laugh, no matter what you were doing,” says Ulmen.

Lisa Farver always loved a good love story, and many were happy when she found Dave in her life and got married in 2009. Mike Harris, 31, police operations, remembers that, “she was always talking about her husband and her stepchildren, how she loved them.” Dibert adds, “The last thing she said that I can remember is, ‘Judy, I am so happy. I am so, so happy.’ And she was, being married.”

One of the memories that Shemas and Harris hold dear is the night they got engaged, during CSF’s fall festival. “The festival didn’t really turn out that well, but we still had a great night,” said Shemas. “Just her reaction to our engagement – her face lit up, she was teary-eyed and she said, ‘I’ve got to call my family and let them know that two of my students are getting married!’ She was just so excited for us, and that meant a lot,” says Shemas.

Lisa’s enthusiasm in the classroom and zest for life will



Lisa Farver at her wedding in 2009.

COURTESY: HACC

be deeply missed. Her favorite room to teach in, Arts 216, will always hold a dear place in her colleagues’ and students’ hearts. The office bay she shared with many is now a quiet place. “It’s never going to be the same without her here. Ever. Especially upstairs,” says Ulmen, “That bay will never be the same. We’ll miss Lisa’s laugh. That’s all gone. It’s just... quiet.”

Gutwein says of Lisa, “If somebody asked me, ‘how do you think she’d want to be remembered?’ I’d say as a happy person, as a loyal friend, as a fine Christian woman, and as a person who loved teaching, and loved her family.” She continues, “She had a good spirit. Sometimes, I think we have a tendency to romanticize people after they pass away. I don’t think I’m being idealistic about her at all, because that’s who she was.”

“And she was very happy. I feel that I was really blessed to have had a journey with her.

She just enjoyed life. This really ties into what Lisa was really about, in terms of enjoying life.

We were travelling. We went to the Black Hills and decided to come out the Wyoming side and go to Devil’s Tower. A thunderstorm blew in from the prairie - lightning was flashing, and the clouds were getting heavy and the sky was gray. You’d see this lightning flash and it would light up the sky, and she yelled, ‘Stop the car! Stop the car! I just want to stand in the storm - it’s so beautiful! Just for a little while, I want to stand in the storm.’ So we stopped, and she got out and she stood there, just looking at it - reveling in its beauty. It was just one of those moments in time that I think is just really indicative of the kind of person that she was. She wanted to revel in the power of nature and she saw its beauty.”

-Geri Gutwein

HACC Student Profile - Michelle Sheehan

True love and Central PA's sense of community drew this San Francisco native to Harrisburg and HACC

By Allison Stark
Associate Editor

People are often baffled at Michelle Lynn Sheehan's decision to move to Harrisburg from her home in San Francisco. The answer is a love story, with her partner, Sue Spangler, and Central PA itself.

Michelle, 41, psychology, met Sue via the internet. They fell in love and, after two years of long-distance flights to spend time together,

Michelle decided to move to Central PA and make her home here with Sue. She says, "Every time I would come here, I would take a little more in and a little more in. I just

really like the people in PA – they're genuine, and they're very nice, and it's very community-oriented. People are just kind of, I don't know, they want to help each other, where San Francisco can be very cutthroat." Despite the reputation of San Francisco as a progressive haven, Michelle says the tight confines of the city can bring out the competitive worst in its residents. "To make it there, you have to work several jobs, or have a very high-falutin' job, so people will stand on their relative's head to get to the next step if they have to."

Michelle started at HACC several years ago, beginning with one class a semester, per doctor's orders due to health problems. As her health improved, her doctor approved moving up to two classes a semester, although she took regular breaks to go home and help care

for her ailing mother. After earning her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development, Michelle remained at HACC in a dual enrollment with Penn State Berks, where she is studying to be an occupational therapist assistant.

In March 2011, Michelle was inducted into the honors society Phi Theta Kappa, which started her off on the path of volunteerism and leadership at HACC.

Michelle became active in clubs on campus, beginning with LINKED-Learning In New Kinds of Educational Diversity, a club which highlights student diversity and students with disabilities. "I'm someone who has my own physical and health issues that I deal with on a daily basis, but I joined LINKED more as an advocate for students who may be challenged in other ways, more than me – learning disabilities,

physical disabilities," she says. "Amanda Blose was the president at the time (and currently), and she just needed someone to kind of help her with linking to different official people here on campus so that her voice could be heard, and in order to get this club off the ground, and just trying to reach out to other students to show that we have a club to support them, whether it be for their needs or just a place to have fun and hang out."

When she needed an art class to meet her transfer requirements for Penn State, Michelle chose glass because of her lifelong love of

glass art, gained partially through her aunt and uncle. Michelle and Sue joined the Glass Club, and approached the club's president with suggestions for activities and fundraising. When the president told them she would be leaving her position the following semester, Michelle and Sue volunteered for the job, and were voted in as officers.

"From there," Michelle says, "we just kind of really blossomed. The club took off and I had a lot of ideas and ways that we could fundraise and make this club fun and also allow ourselves to be exposed to other artists and other communities of glass that we could visit."

Last year, the club visited the Corning Museum of Glass in New York. This year, they are working toward a trip for the club to Seattle, Washington, to experience the glass community there. They plan to tour the Spectrum Glass Company, from whom they purchase much of the colored glass they work with, as well as the Tacoma Glass Museum, and the Seattle Space Needle, where prominent glass artist Dale Chihuly has created a garden out of glass. The club is funding most of the trip through its fundraisers, as well as moneys from SGA. Michelle says, "It just allows the students here, within our own community at HACC, to go beyond what they know here in Harrisburg and experience something else within the United States, and having that exposure as learning and growing experience for all of us." Michelle credits the team efforts of the entire Glass

Club with making the trip possible.

Michelle is also involved with HACC's Building and Grounds committee. Initially, she joined to represent LINKED, but sees the need for a student voice on behalf of all students in the decisions made regarding our campus. It's important, she says, "whether it has to do with security, maintenance, and such, that they can hear from our perspective because we are the meat of this college. We

are the ones who fund this college, so to speak, and so we want to make sure the students' voices are heard."

Outside of HACC, Michelle and her partner devote time to homeless outreach. In their own vehicle, they can often be found distributing blankets, clothing, and food to

Michelle Sheehan wears her love of HACC in plain sight.



"People always say, 'Why would you leave San Francisco and come here?' That's one of the reasons – because of just how good-hearted people are here in PA."

"HACC, for me, is a village - a village that takes care of each other. I've found that, whether it be from faculty, administration, or my common peers here, everyone's looking out for each other."

Michelle Sheehan wears her love of HACC in plain sight.

Harrisburg's homeless population. They take this on, says Michelle, "Just because it's the right thing to do. Because there's people who are in need. And I don't like to see anyone hurting." The lack of greed among the people they meet is one of the things that inspire her to keep reaching out. She says, "We could bring boxes and boxes of clothes with us, and we'll offer them 2 or 3 shirts or pairs of pants, and they'll always say, 'Leave something for the next person.' And they'll always take one of each, which just always amazes me."

When asked what makes HACC and Central PA so special to her, Michelle says, "HACC, for me, is a village. And it's a village that takes care of each other. And

I've found, myself, that, whether it be from faculty, administration, or my common peers here, everyone's looking out for each other." She says the support she's received from the HACC community, through school and her struggles in caring for her mother, has been the most she's received

in her life. "I always think of a village that everyone's always looking out for everyone's children, and each other's neighbors, and that's what I find with HACC."

Another thing that makes this community important to her is its treatment of her and Sue as a couple. Michelle says, "Maybe everyone's not in agreement with my relationship with a woman, but everyone has been very positive and embracing with having us within this village. Sue and I have never felt any prejudice from anyone. We've always been welcomed and allowed to blossom within this community, our village here at HACC. It has been an awesome feeling because people always say, 'Why would you leave San Francisco and come here?' That's one of the reasons – because of just how good-hearted people are here in PA."

Employee Profile: Rose Miller, guru upstairs

If you have a question, Miller has the answer. All you have to do is ask.

By Lydia Hurley
Staff Writer

Rose Miller, enrollment services specialist, does more for students than her title suggests.

Even at 8 AM, Rose was busy helping several students with financial and scheduling issues. One student had dropped a class by the 50% reimbursement date, but had not received their reimbursement in their account.

Rose likes the student contact aspect about her job. "The most enriching thing about what I do is being able to help a student know that their destiny is in their hands and how to feel confident in steering their own destiny," she says.

"It's incumbent on us to put out a good product and I care very much about that: putting out a good product."

Rose started at HACC because she needed benefits to support her daughter. "I started thinking about HACC because HACC had a gym, HACC was four miles from my house, very good benefits, had a really good reputation as a school. You can do customer service anywhere and that's what I am good at: customer service." She started in the cashier office.

"In the last eight years the feel of the place has become more businesslike. I was not here for all the people who have the stories of 'I remember when...,' but I have heard a lot of those stories." She says that HACC used to have more of a community feeling, but when an organization grows a structure has to be put in place.

This has some downfalls, but it is necessary for a viable business; HACC would not exist if not for these changes. "They need to be fiscally centered changes to make sure that HACC is okay through the next several decades," she says.

One of the saddest things for Rose at this point in HACC's lifetime is losing the people who have been around since the beginning or close to the beginning. "There were several people who had been here for forty years all retiring very recently. It kind of has felt like a losing of the old guard. You can't help but feel that there is a change because of that," she says.

Rose sees some challenges in her area. "I wish we had more time to intermingle and have info sessions. I would like to be able to impart some of the reasons we do what we do to the faculty. And I would like to hear from the faculty about some of the things that they would like to see from our



LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

Rose Miller gets a breath of fresh air on the Cooper balcony.

department," she says.

"We have started to do cross training with financial aid," she says, "which is a huge thing because our departments are so intertwined." Having a knowledge of other departments will enable them to help students better.

Rose grew up in Colonial Park. When she was ten she wanted to be both a gymnast and a country singer. "You can do both of those, right? You can do whatever you want," she said. In her free time

Rose likes to read and go to the gym, especially Zumba class. "I love Zumba class, I always say in Zumba class I feel like a dancing cow, but that's okay because it's a room full of dancing cows. Only the instructor is up there looking all sexy and Latina, swinging her hips, looking right," she says.

In her free time she likes to read, and she is now reading *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson.

Rose is planning on buying a bike, so in the spring she's looking forward to biking. In general she's just looking forward to being outside. "Sometimes I'll go home and cook a nice light meal and go out on the deck and eat." And she would like to add some wine to that scene.

Rose will dance anywhere and tries to add levity to tense situations. But more than anything, she thinks her secret talent is to connect to people. "I just honestly think

my secret superpower is I have a feeling for people," she says.

Rose would be fine if she was stuck on an island with only three things. "This has some merit; I'm thinking 'where can I go?' If I had my daughter, and cell phone because of access to books and music, and food, good food; I would be set. I'm kind of there," she says.

If she could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, she would pick Abraham Lincoln. "I might warn him, 'Dude, don't go to the Ford.'" She says she has a thing for the Civil War. At the same time she had plenty of runners up: Bruce Springsteen, Nelson Mandela, Christine Buransky, Jesus—"But he probably wouldn't talk. I'd want answers and he would not be giving them."

The thing that keeps her here is, "The feeling that I really am making a difference in the lives of students. The freedom that I have in my job to do new and interesting things. I volunteer for everything." She does orientation for new students and volunteers for committees.

About changes in her office Rose says, "There's really not a whole lot that's changing since the fall. There are just little things going on. We're trying to make smarter decisions where we can move duties around. Where we can share duplicated tasks and streamline a bit more."



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How to find the right therapist for your situation

By **Kadijah Kastriba**
Contributing Writer

So you have just received your mental health diagnosis. A psychiatrist has spent at least an hour, possibly even days, asking you questions about your history, your moods, and what you think about when you are alone. You now have a diagnosis with which to label all of the turmoil that has filled your life for months or, in most cases, years. Now what?

Regardless of whether you are diagnosed with depression, borderline personality disorder, or bipolar disorder, it is important to realize that medication is not always enough. There are other steps that a patient can do to proactively help the healing process. At the beginning it is best to take it slow, but there is one thing that can be the difference between getting better, and just surviving.

In his book *Living Well with Depression and Bipolar Disorder*, John McManamy explains that negative thoughts and feelings of anxiety can be controlled through proper cognitive thinking. A well trained therapist can walk you through the process of changing how the mind thinks, and teach you how to change a thought process that is snowballing out of control into something productive. Along with medication, these techniques can help you start to put the broken pieces of your mind back together.

There are several things you should look for when finding a therapist.

Do your research. When shopping for a car, there are several things you do before making a decision. You see what you can afford, whether the car is reliable, and if the car will be a comfortable fit. The same goes when finding a therapist.

Contact your medical insurance company to see who is in your network. If you do not have insurance, get in touch with

NAMI, the National Association on Mental Illness, as they have resources to help you get in touch with local agencies that help people in your situation.

Find out if anyone you know was their patient, or if they have heard of the therapist, and listen thoughtfully to their

take the time to read how they treat their patients.

Write a list of questions and expectation that you would have for your potential therapist. Don't be afraid to ask your therapist questions. Randi Kreger writes in her book, *The Essential Family Guide to*

any better. First, have you given it enough time? Rome was not built in a day, and your illness will not be cured quickly. For most people suffering from mental illness, it takes somewhere between 2 to 10 years for there to be any significant improvement, according to McManamy. If it has

A well trained therapist can walk you through the process of changing how the mind thinks, and teach you how to change a thought process that is snowballing out of control into something productive.

opinions. If a person says, "Oh, they were terrible, they wanted me to stop smoking weed," that's probably a less than reliable opinion. If a person says, "They were helpful. They taught me how to sit and meditate, and now I can control my anger," then that therapist is worth looking into. If you cannot find anyone that has been treated by this therapist, read reviews online. Enter the therapists name into a search engine, and see what comes up. If there are police reports, steer clear.

Going online can also be a way of finding

Borderline Personality Disorder, that it is important for a therapist to consider your thoughts and feelings before treating you.

Be prepared to ask your therapist questions on how they plan on treating you, and what kind of therapies have worked for them in the past. Make sure that your therapist is willing to communicate your treatment plan with your psychiatrist, and ask what is the best way to get in touch with them if you need to reschedule an appointment or have more questions.

As for expectations, be prepared to

state those as well. For example, Kreger says for someone with Borderline Personality Disorder, it is best to ask your therapist to keep their private life private. You do not need to worry about your therapist's problems while dealing with your own. If there are topics that you wish not to discuss, tell your therapist. You may not be ready to explore certain past pains. If they come out later fine, but a therapist that wants to push them out

only been two weeks, give it more time. If it's been six months, it might be time to reevaluate.

Are you keeping your appointments? Therapy only works if you go. If you find yourself constantly moving appointments around or canceling, then it will not work. Even if your therapist is of Dr. Phil caliber, they cannot help you if you do not go and see them. Try and schedule appointments that are on the same day of the week and at the same time. This will create a routine for you. If you have done that and still no improvement, reflect on your sessions.

Have you told your therapist? If every time you go into an appointment, you tell your therapist how wonderful life is, but inside you are feeling like crawling into a ball and dying, than they will not be able to help you. It is called getting "real." Your therapist should want to help you, but they cannot read your mind. If you do not feel like you are seeing any improvement, tell your therapist. If that does not work, it may be time to start looking for someone new.

If you reach that point, be honest with your therapist and tell them why you are switching. Also, make sure that your bill is paid up to date. This will help in getting your files moved over to the new therapist's office.

All of this may seem overwhelming, and if it is, reach out for help. Find a trusted family member, or contact NAMI for support. There are caseworkers whose only job is to help you through this process. Kay Redfield Jamison writes in her book, *An Unquiet Mind*, that having

excellent psychotherapy was the key to her managing the symptoms of her bipolar disorder. A good therapist will help you in so many ways, up to and including taking your medication on a regular basis. You do not have to suffer alone, there is someone out there that will listen.

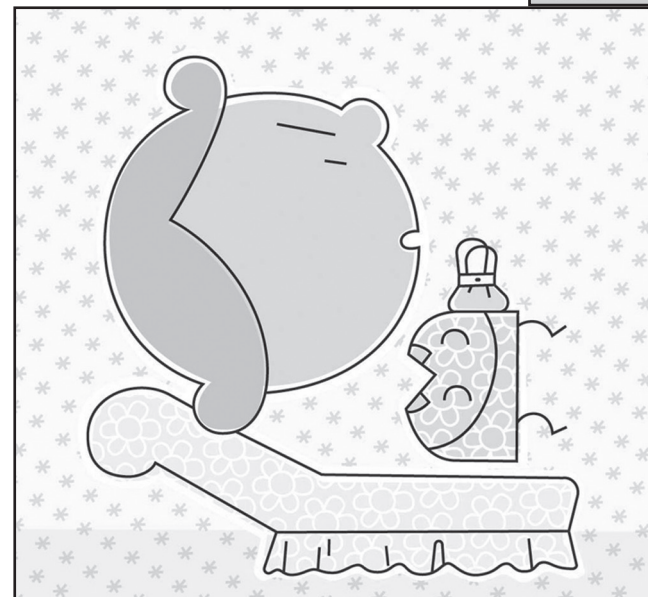


If you do not have insurance, get in touch with NAMI, the National Association on Mental Illness, as they have resources to help you get in touch with local agencies that help people in your situation.

out if a therapist will be a comfortable fit. Websites like psychologytoday.com give therapist profiles and testimonials. You will want to see if the therapist treats you disorder, and if they do,

is only going to cause you more pain.

Be willing to accept that not every therapist will be the right one, and that you may have to start the search again. This may be the most frustrating. So you did your research, and you interviewed a very nice therapist, but you just are not feeling

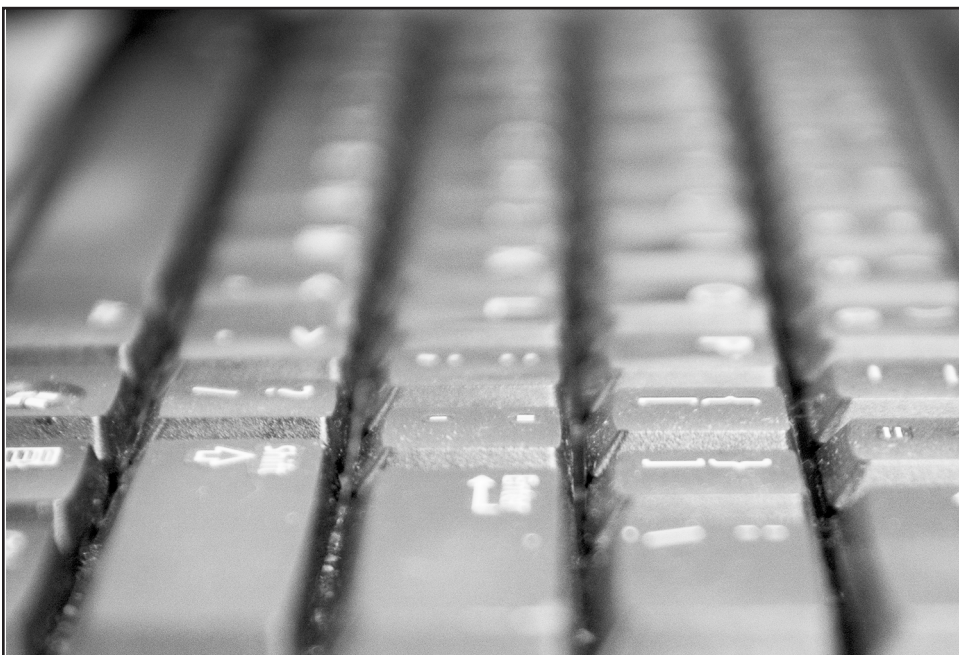


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Having a hard time finding a therapist at HACC? The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) can help.

Email Kadijah Kastriba at mak2025@hawkmail.hacc.edu or Jeff Fazio at jmfazio@hacc.edu

Windows 8 - yay or nay?



LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

By Leif Johnson
Staff Writer

When Microsoft announced the Windows 8 operating system, they praised it for bringing information faster and connecting users to the world more easily. The concept behind the success of their new operating system is the live tiles technology. They are designated to a specific application and are designed to keep information up to minute. One tile might be dedicated to Facebook, updating status changes in real time. Another tile could be dedicated to ESPN, keeping sports news up to the minute. They are a great way to receive minute by minute updates; however, Microsoft assumes that you are looking at your computer all the time. This is where Windows 8 falls short of its intended glory.

As it turns out, not everyone spends every moment at their computers. Even more so, most Americans rarely use their home computers to find news,

information, or check social networks. Focusing on smart tile technology takes the focus away from the purpose of the computer. The live tiles do not represent all the programs available on the computer. When you need a program, you can switch to a Windows 7 style home screen, which is more effective for navigation. Windows 8 proves itself as a flashier version of Windows 7. It's just as effective, however it may not be worth the money to upgrade. Windows 8 is being used on tablets and Windows phones, where it really shines.

If you have Windows 7 and can't afford the upgrade, don't worry about it; Windows 8 doesn't deliver anything very novel or groundbreaking.

Microsoft recently released the Surface tablet, their answer to the iPad. The Surface utilizes the Windows 8 Smart Tile technology to effectively manage apps and update them in real time. This feature is more effective on the tablet than the home computer. Most of the time, tablet users are switching between apps and checking social feeds more often than doing substantial tasks. This provides for an effective use of the operating system. The basic model goes for \$499, but if you spend \$100 more you can pick up the keyboard cover at Best Buy. Another Best Buy exclusive is a line of laptops by Lenovo. These laptops can be manipulated by twisting the keyboard behind the screen. The laptop can then be used as a tablet. The lap-

tops range from \$1,199 to \$1,299. The other option for a Windows 8 device is the Windows phone. Microsoft has re-launched their phone operating system this year, promoting its more user-friendly interface,

which is very similar to the iPhone. The Windows phone ranges in price from \$49 to \$99 with the purchase of a two year contract.

If you have Windows 7 and can't afford the upgrade, don't worry about it; Windows 8 doesn't deliver anything very novel or ground breaking. If you don't have a laptop, or are looking to buy a tablet, the Surface is definitely worth the money, and comes with a version of Microsoft Office suite. Your best bet is to stick with my Windows 7 and wait for Microsoft's next operating system.

Let's watch *Mama...or not*

By Nicole DuPree
Contributing Writer

SPOILER ALERT

Have you ever seen something that was so scary that it made you question reality and everything around you? Or a movie that would haunt your dreams? A good scary movie should do all of these things, and *Mama* does none of them. If you're curious about the best part of the movie, it was the end credits. If you want something truly scary, put a sheet on your head, walk around your house in the dark and have a friend jump out and hit you with a baseball bat randomly; that'll be much scarier.

I had the great misfortune of going to see the movie *Mama*. During the entire movie the director asked you to feel sorry for the ghost while she went off and killed a bunch of people. I'm sorry if I have a hard time feeling sad for someone who killed a small group of people for less than noble reasons. How are you going to force me to care about someone who stabbed a nun, kidnapped their own baby, tried to drown said baby, then ended up stalking and killing a small child, and breaking up a family...what the fuck?



This movie was filled with nothing but jump scares and was the biggest waste of time and money that I have seen in a long time. The worst part about this movie was the acting. At first, it was decent, but as soon as the 30-minute mark hit in the movie and I realized what was going on, the movie went downhill very fast. Honestly, there are more interesting things you could do with your time and there are many more things you could do with your money.

If you are still going, then don't waste your time paying full price, pay two bucks and go to the two dollar movie theatre. If you really want to be adventurous, wait until it's on Netflix and just stream it. I'm going to have to say just go rent it, because you aren't missing anything by not seeing it on the big screen - if you see it at all.

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Americans' appetite for fast, easy answers and internet memes fuels a vicious cycle of ignorance

Timothy McVeigh bombing the Oklahoma City Federal building. September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Hurricane Katrina. And in the forefront of every American's mind, the senseless shooting of elementary school children in Sandy Hook.

Any time there is a tragedy in our country, it strikes a chord with our emotions. People are saddened and scared, and with good reason. No one sends their child to school expecting them to get shot. No one goes to work expecting to die.

We feel so secure with our government's police and military protection that we forget that there is still free will and not all human actions are done with good intentions.

When something like the Aurora movie theater massacre occurs, our first reaction is to figure out who to blame. We want a fast, easy answer to assuage our sadness and powerlessness against senseless tragedy.

As Americans we get so caught up in

the now, which sounds great, but when it concerns lives, shouldn't we take the time to make sure things go right?

Americans are great at doing one thing - sensationalizing a story. We can bitch all day and night about something we read on Facebook or some scandal from Twitter. And all those memes...Who

YouTube or the Today show, that's what you know Americans are paying attention to.

Sadly, it's mostly scandals - or cats.

hasn't seen 'Ex Benedict'?

If it goes viral, and is featured on YouTube or the Today show, that's what you know Americans are paying attention to. Sadly, it's mostly scandals - or cats.

You know what Americans are not good at doing? Coming up with solutions that are agreeable to everyone. We are still stuck in this quagmire of debt, with no end in sight. The rich don't

want to give up what they have and the poor are sucking up what they can.

God forbid you should bring up something controversial, like guns. You are either for or against having them, with no in-between. There seems to be no compromise in sight. Our government is attempting to come to some kind of

resolution when it comes to bearing arms, yet all you read are Facebook rants with no basis in fact - just knee jerk reactions.

As consumers, it's our fault our society is the way it is. We drive what we feel is noteworthy to the front, not always knowing, or concerned about, the full details.

You can't turn on a news station with-

out hearing a story being run as, "An unidentified man seems to have shot another person. No details are available at this time." Why? Because they don't have the details. Why say anything at all? Because the viewers demand instant gratification. Whether the facts are correct or not, it doesn't matter. What matters is that we know more than the person beside us.

What we should be concentrating on is re-learning what we should have learned in grade school - respect for other people. With that virtue alone, so many of our country's wrongs could be set right. By respecting others' privacy, by respecting their right to bear arms (or not), by respecting their sexual orientation, by respecting people as human beings instead of putting them under a microscope, we could come to some sort of agreement to live together amicably.

After all, how many of us would come out squeaky clean if the media latched onto us?

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Robin Young '13
International Studies Major
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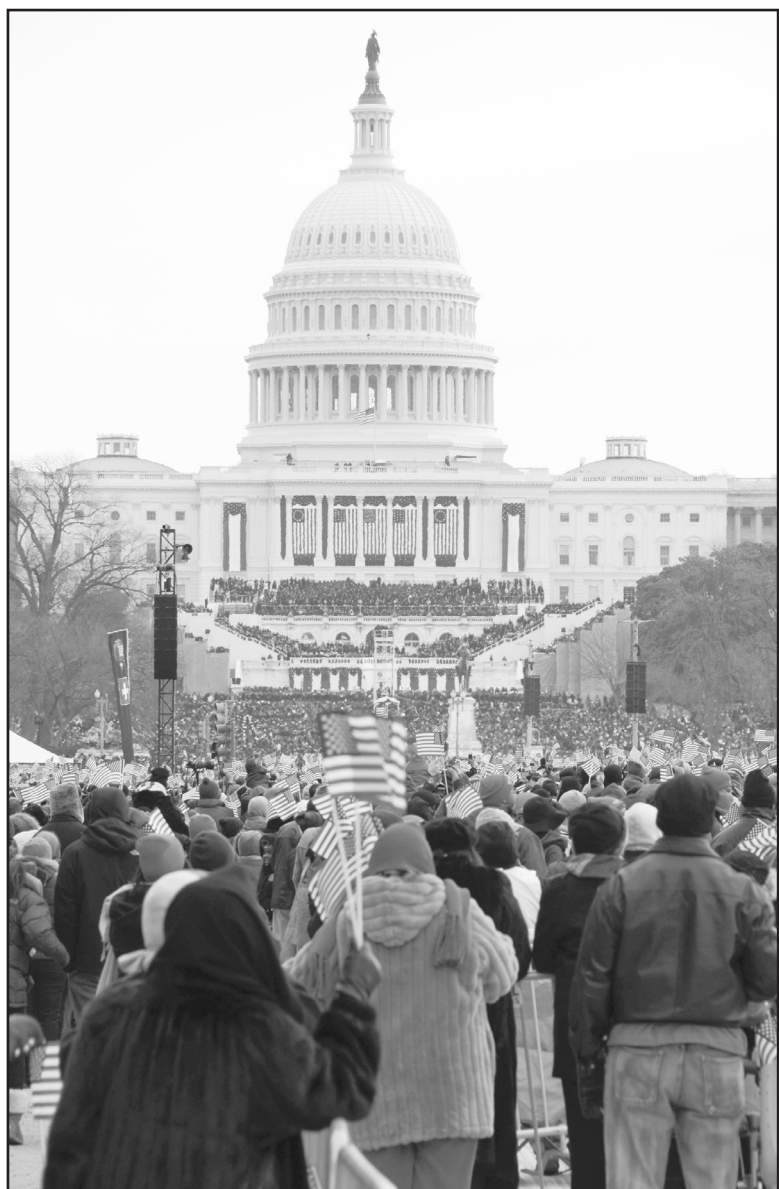
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Soldiers bad-mouthing President acceptable?

No Camouflage for the Un-Uniform Opinion about the Commander in Chief



COURTESY OF MATT JONES

By Matt Jones
Contributing Writer

As President Barack Obama was sworn-in as the president of the United States on Jan. 21, he also reaffirmed his role as our military's commander in chief.

Several thousand uniformed service members gathered in Washington, D.C., to take part in every aspect of the event. Marines in crisp dress uniforms stood guard near the official ceremony; Vietnam veterans in faded olive drab made the trek from the wall to the mall; and digitally camouflaged National Guard members from dozens of states—including more than 1,200 soldiers and airmen from Pennsylvania—managed crowds and traffic in busy areas.

The diversity of the military members participating was matched only by their feelings towards the man of the hour. No amount of military training can take the citizen out of a 'citizen-soldier.' Like other U.S. citizens, those who wear the uniform are as divided on the political

landscape as they are united on the battlefield.

I was sent to the inauguration as a member of the National Guard's public relations team. My job was simple: tell U.S. citizens about the great job their troops were doing in support of the inauguration.

This seemingly honorable job proved to be a difficult one.

No respectable service member will disobey a lawful order, but many will curse under their breath while carrying out an unpleasant one.

With so many troops participating in one

mission, it should come as no surprise that some were less than thrilled to be there. What surprised me, however, was not the amount of people complaining, but the vehemence with which they objected to the mission and the person around whom the mission revolved: our president and commander in chief.

A few days earlier, while briefing the troops on the basics of interacting with the media, I had my first encounter of this event.

A young airman first class asked me what he should say if someone asked him if he was proud to be there. I knew why he was asking the question, but asked him to explain himself, hoping the audience filled with his superiors would force him to question the direction in which he was heading. Instead, he and several others said they would simply not engage members of the media because they had no pride in supporting the inauguration of a president they didn't vote for in front of an audience of people with whom they theoretically held opposing values.

Two months earlier, this same spirit

was alive and well in a Pennsylvania National Guard officer who marked the re-election of Obama in a unique way. Late into the night of Nov. 6, 2012, as the Electoral College votes were being counted by the round-the-clock news stations, this officer flipped the flag he flew in his front yard and painted "America, 1776-2012, R.I.P." on a large panel at the base of the flagpole.

Others use the relative anonymity of Facebook and other online media to voice their opinion.

One state guardsman expressed his displeasure of the inauguration mission by posting on the organization's Facebook page. He said the mission was a disgraceful waste of taxpayer money being used to support a glorified political rally. The fact is the military has supported every inauguration since they assisted with George Washington's trek from Mount

So what's wrong with a service member—especially a reservist—voicing their personal opinion? Nothing at all perhaps, unless that opinion is voiced while wearing the uniform or using an online profile as someone who is clearly a member of the military. It then quickly undermines the civilian-led chain of command upon which our military was built.

Some would argue that vocalizing such opposition is no different than a Vietnam-era G.I. badmouthing President Lyndon Johnson, a common occurrence at the time. There is one big difference, however, between those who spoke against Johnson or Bush and those who do the same now: today's military is an all-volunteer force. No one wearing the uniform today does so unwillingly. We were not drafted, and we are not being kept beyond the date we willingly

agreed to.

There's a saying in the military that you don't have to respect the person, but you must respect the rank. We may not like every military leader we work for, but we fight willingly

The diversity of the military members participating was matched only by their feelings towards the man of the hour.

Vernon to New York City more than 220 years ago. I'm sure, however, that there were far fewer supporters of John Adams there than fans of Mitt Romney or John McCain supporting Obama's respective ceremonies.

This problem isn't exclusive to conservative troops. At the height of the 'stop loss' policy that kept troops deployed beyond their enlistment contract, opposition to President George W. Bush and his support of this policy was relatively common. Just like today, the vast majority of troops either supported the decisions of their commander in chief or kept their opposition quiet, but those who did voice their opposition did so loudly.

as a member of their team, because that is the promise we made to each other and the American people. That is true of every sergeant, lieutenant, and general.

As I walked through the mall towards Pennsylvania Avenue on the cold January morning our president was sworn-in, a countless number of the estimated 800,000 citizens in attendance thanked me for serving. Several asked to have a picture taken with me and my comrades. It was clear to me that we have earned a respect greater than perhaps any other group of people. The least we can do is return that respect to our citizens, our civilian leaders, and especially our president and commander in chief.



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