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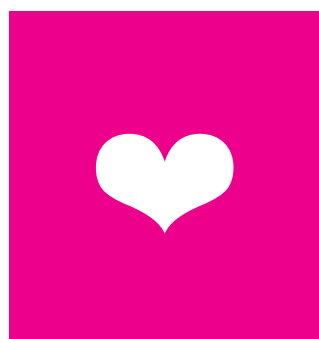
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THE TOWER

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF KEAN UNIVERSITY

Mass class cancellations cause widespread chaos

By Alexandria Adesso & Sonia Aquije

Kean students and adjunct professors alike had an unwelcomed surprise at the beginning of the Spring 2013 semester with course cancellations.

Hundreds of courses were cancelled and only some were reinstated. Most, but not all, students were not aware that their classes were cancelled until they received an email from the Office of Registrar. Some were able to overload into already full classes, but many could not.

"You want to know about the pain of how I lost my chemistry class?" said Christian Salvatierra, a sophomore biology major. "The humiliation of not even getting an e-mail of cancellation, it was very stressful and annoying."

The mass class cancellations also affected adjunct-professors who make up most of Kean University's teaching staff.

"What students do not know is that 300 plus adjunct faculty who had been assigned last year and committed themselves to teach more than six credits this spring semester, were sent emails by their chairs telling them that no adjunct faculty may teach above six credits," said Kathleen Henderson the president of the Kean University Adjunct Faculty Federation. "These 300 plus adjuncts, many of whom were the best of Kean's Adjunct faculty, some being awarded the title 'distinguished professors', had to turn back any courses they

were assigned above the six credit limit. This forced adjuncts to head to unemployment offices around the state for an imposed reduction in workload. At the same time

needs of students for graduation, financial considerations and other factors. I know of no university that does not cancel or add classes due to fluctuations in enrollment," said

Unit members from KFT President James A. Castiglione, informs of course cancellations and urged program coordinators, chairpersons, and faculty that have not been notified by their dean to urgently do so. Students are upset about these abrupt course cancellations because they came without warning.

"Well, I almost lost housing as well as really important business classes I've been trying to take," said Rahul Chitale, a sophomore business major. "Then they are taken away from me just like that."

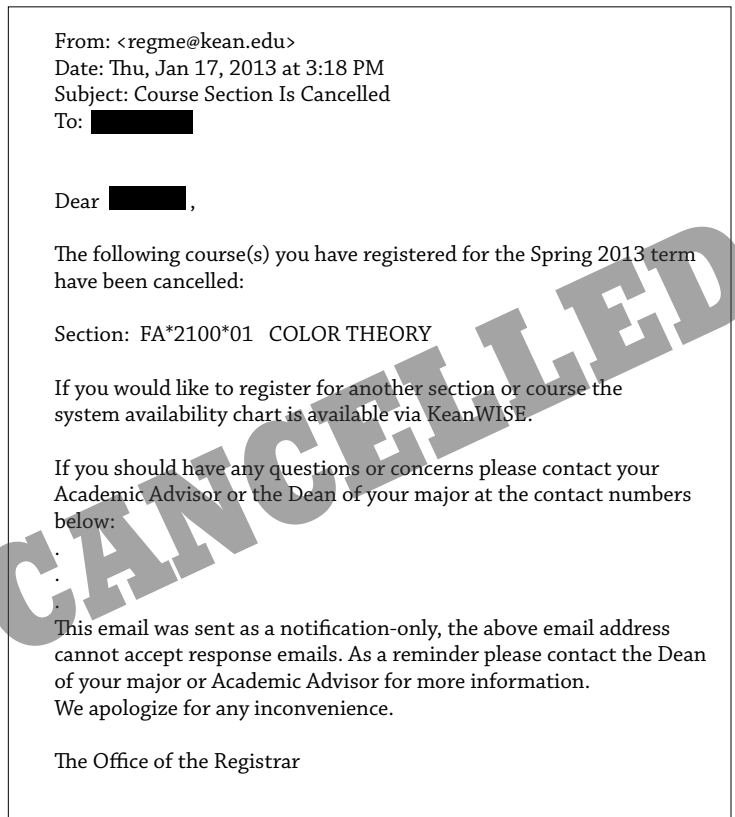
While other students like Sydney Farrell, a freshman Biology major, was left confused and annoyed.

"I signed up for cellular biology class and when I tried registering for another section Keanwise kept saying there's nothing listed for the course at all," said Farrell. "Yet I see other people who are taking the class I needed; it bugs me. I didn't have any holds on my account or anything."

Unlike other students affected by the cancellations, senior communications/journalism major Celleste Valeanu was notified two weeks before the beginning of the semester that one of her two cancelled classes was cancelled, instead of a day before the semester began, like most students.

"My first class was a personal fitness class," said Valeanu. "It wasn't so bad because they gave me a two week notice."

Unfortunately, Valeanu wasn't as lucky *continued on page 4*



advertisements in the Star Ledger began the great desperate hunt for adjuncts to fill our third courses. We were told there would be no exceptions."

Jeffrey Toney, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, attributed the mass cancellations to low student enrollment.

"Two weeks prior to each semester courses are added and cancelled based on the number of students enrolled in each section of each course and the

Toney. "Our analysis determined that far too many sections offered were posting low enrollments of 4 or 5 students, requiring a consolidation of sections offered—not a cancellation of the course offerings. We are confident the scheduling was handled prudently and to the benefit of our key customers—our students."

In an e-mail sent on January 17th to all Kean Federation of Teachers Bargaining

Is your right to Freedom of Speech safe at Kean?

By Keanu Austin

Joseph Aziz, a student at Montclair State University, received national attention recently after being punished for violating the university's code of conduct by posting a demeaning comment about a fellow schoolmate online and then chatting about them and the incident in private. Aziz, along with others, believed his punishment to be a violation of his freedom of speech.

It all started when Aziz left a comment on the page for a YouTube video, claiming a female schoolmate's legs that were visible in the video looked like "a pair of bleached hams." A complaint later reached the university's administrators, who consequently prohibited Aziz from making any sort of contact with the female or speaking about her online.

Aziz later violated what was outlined in his No-Contact Order by joking about the incident and mentioning the female in a Facebook group that he believed to be private. This violation led to his punishment—a one-semester suspension.

Montclair State's code of conduct shares similarities to many other codes and policies upheld by other universities in New Jersey, including Kean. Does that mean a student at Kean can be punished for similar conduct?

According to Kean University's Vice President of Student Affairs Janice Murray-Laury and Matthew Caruso of the

Public Relations department, the answer is yes.

Just as with the student at Montclair State, if a student at Kean is accused of harassment, they can be hit with a No-Contact Order that prohibits them from making contact with the person who feels they are being targeted. Violation of this order may result in punishments listed in Kean's code of conduct, which includes expulsion if the situation calls for it.

However, while action can be taken against an accused stu-

regardless of the action taking place off campus, the conduct can still be addressed if it is deemed to affect a substantial university interest.

She defined such interests as "a detriment to the educational interests of the University; a violation of local, state, or federal law; indication that a student presents danger to him/herself or others; and significantly breaching peace and causing social order."

Murray-Laury also referred to a part of Kean's code of con-

once they receive a report, the director or designee reviews the circumstances surrounding the event in question to determine if there are sufficient grounds to believe that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct occurred.

Should it be determined that a conduct violation has occurred, the student will be charged with a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Murray-Laury also mentioned that when discussing incidents of this nature, it is important

"...while action can be taken against an accused student who talks to their target, an accused student simply talking about their target in private may be a different matter..."

dent who talks to their target, an accused student simply talking about their target in private may be a different matter, unlike the Montclair State case before Aziz's punishment was overturned.

"We would encourage a student not to post about another student and have an educational conversation with him or her about why he or she should not do so, but we would not be able to prevent a student from posting information," stated Murray-Laury.

Murray-Laury also said that

duct, which states what steps will be taken if a student's conduct is deemed so "severe or pervasive and objectively offensive that it substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the University or the rights of any student or other member of the university community."

Those who decide if conduct is severe, pervasive or objectively offensive are the people of the university's Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

According to Murray-Laury,

to focus on the definitions of things like bullying and harassment that are found in the code.

In the case of the student from Montclair State in which his punishment was overturned, university officials tried to justify its decision by claiming their student code of conduct complies with New Jersey's anti-bullying law. However, it was found that what Montclair State University considered to be bullying in this case, the state of New Jersey did not.

Kean Alumnus reaching new heights with swim suit collection



Valerie Blanchard with Miss New Jersey. Photo: Valerie Blanchard

By Iman-Jazelle Bond

On the first day of class, Valerie Blanchard tells her students to make a bucket list. Blanchard realizes a lot of people are more motivated to do things with their lives when they have a bucket list.

Part of Blanchard's bucket list is expanding her bikini line, Paradise Bikini, and having it sold worldwide. Along with having her own bikini line, Blanchard is an alumna and adjunct professor at Kean University, as well as an elementary school special education teacher.

"I've always been the type of person that multi tasks," said Blanchard.

She likes to stay busy. She balances her busy life using time management and the drive to reach her goals. Blanchard always had what she calls "an entrepreneurial spirit." When she was going for

her Ph.D. in higher education, she needed to take one elective. So, she took an entrepreneur in business course in the Bachelor of Medicine program at Seton Hall University.

"When you're going to start

"When you're going to start a business, you have to start a business that you're passionate about."

a business, you have to start a business that you're passionate about," said Blanchard. That was the key. Blanchard wondered what she was passionate about. It intrigued her and she finished the graduate certificate program for entrepreneurship.

Ever since she was a little girl, she would sketch dresses and make catalogues, but all of her previous education had been in education and teaching. She never went to fashion school, even though she had a passion for clothing. She had never given a thought that fashion is what she should pursue as a business venture.

For a few years, Blanchard would pull apart her and her friends swimsuits and embellish them. She received so many compliments on the bathing suits she beautified. One day she realized: "Oh my gosh! Maybe this is my business. Maybe I should pursue this."

Her first design was done at a beach house in Belmar, New Jersey. She would go to Atlantic City for rhinestones and different ideas for embellishing her suits.

Initially, she wasn't very confident. She wanted to make her

creations beautiful but was unsure how to do certain things. But, she was persistent and continued to try and improve her skills.

She finished the communications program at Kean and Dr.

Lynch gave her the opportunity to become an adjunct professor, which she has been doing for eight years.

After discovering her passion, Blanchard created her own website and Facebook page. From there, her pictures began floating around the internet.

An event planning company needed a swimsuit designer to showcase bathing suits for a company. It was at the Hudson terrace in New York City and they asked her to do a fashion show.

Blanchard made believe that she had done them before and that she knew what she was talking about. They provided her with models. The person who was to coordinate the catwalk hadn't shown up, so she was forced to do everything herself. She had help from a few of her friends.

This fashion show led her to do many others. She started doing shows in New York and in New Jersey. One opportunity continued to lead to the next.

In Blanchard's line of swimsuits, every swimsuit has some sort of sparkle to it. When she

first started doing swimsuits, they were very "blinged out". She added rhinestones and crystal embellishments.

Blanchard's swim suits are intended for women to wear on a regular basis, like at the beach, or a pool party. They are not just meant to be used as costumes or specialty items. The fabric she uses is satin-spandex, which has a shimmer to it. If she uses a fabric that doesn't have any sparkle, she makes sure to add it. She wants all of her swim suits to shine.

One of Blanchard's favorite creations is from the 2012 collection. It is a teal sequined bathing suit that looks amazing and flattering on anyone. Overall, the reaction has been positive.

Blanchard recently did the gift bags at the 2012 Emmys and has been invited to do the gift bags at the 2013 Academy Awards. She's also made suits for Miss Dominican Republic, Miss Ecuador, Miss USA, Miss New Jersey and Miss Teen USA.

Alexandra Vano, from the show "How to Make It in America" on HBO, was the first celebrity that Blanchard saw wearing one of her swim suit creations.

Constantly revising her bucket list, Blanchard is starting to expand the swimwear collection. She has started a children's swim wear line and she's in the middle of designing a men's collection.

You can find Blanchard's collection, Paradise Bikinis, at Posh Boutique, The Deen Boutique in Trump Towers, Moxi Chick in Nutley, and online on her website, www.paradisebikini.com.

What pick-up line will you use on Valentine's day?

By Michelle A. Bingham

February is near and for every girl it only means one thing... Valentine's Day! This love-filled holiday comes once a year, sweeping every hopeless romantic off of their feet. From teddy bears, to chocolates and romantic dates in the city, we all yearn for little cupid to shoot us with his arrow.

How could you blame us? From the start of cinema, we've been drilled with the idea of

our "Keanites" which Valentine's Day lines they'd love to be whisked away with.

"I'd love it if a guy wrote me a poem," said sophomore tennis athlete Zeny Liggins. Though she is happily involved with her boyfriend of one year, there's always room for creating new, exciting moments.

Don't fret gentlemen; there are still plenty of available valentines-to-be. For some, there is no need for fancy poems or reenactments of movie scenes.

"I'd love it if a guy wrote me a poem."

love. We've seen that it has no end through movies like "The Titanic" and it lasts even through old age and life's illnesses like in "The Notebook." We all deserve a little bit of romance.

This year at Kean University, love is in the air. A couple holding hands or an eager single looking for their mate; no matter who you are, your valentine awaits! Let your heart open up to the wonderful words of love.

What are these words, you ask? "Be Mine!" "Hugs and Kisses!" And the best line of them all: "I Love You". This year, what do you expect to hear? I went out and asked a few of

According to Brittany Heyward, a third year Kean resident, a simple "Will you be my Valentine?" will suffice, along with a dozen beautiful roses. Sometimes, short and sweet goes a long way.

Let's face it. Whether you're single or taken, a hopeless romantic or a realist, Valentine's Day is a time when we all dream a little harder for that special someone. Let's make it a wonderful, love-filled extravaganza by using those Valentine lines on someone amazing. Take a chance on that girl from across the hall and walk up to that guy in class. Who knows, maybe this will be your year for love.



Photo by Michelle Bingham

Advice: Spice it up for Valentine's day!



Photo: BigStock.com

"Listen there's this old philosophy that goes either you take care of your man or another woman will."

they see that their woman is putting her best effort to do something a little kinky every once in a while maybe they will not have

much to complain about.

Not saying that sex toys and dressing up in sexy lingerie will solve all relationships problems

but, it sure will make it harder to leave and make it easy to say yes to little extra wants.

For this Valentine's Day la-

New Year, New Look, New Kean

By Dominique Vinas

Out with the old and in with the bold. This spring, it is all about unleashing your natural feminine beauty.

The simple look is back, but Kean girls are looking anything but simple with the top two spring trends being sheer and lace.

"I love that lace is back for the spring, it's an essential in my fashion wardrobe," said Amanda Villalta, a Junior.

Bright vibrant colors were in for the fall, now however we are seeing a lot of black and white combinations being put together, even with an accent color to accessorize the outfit, such as a scarf or necklace.

"As far as black and white fashion, I love the black slim legging pants, with a black shirt and white scarf," said Amanda.

Retro-themed pieces are making a huge comeback as well, with accessories being simple and minimal, due to the outfits speaking for themselves. Fashion trends include more exposure of the midriff, with just a little skin showing. Similarly appealing are shirts with a lot of detail such as fringed edges, snake skin, stripes and dots.

"Since the retro look is back, I find that American Apparel is the go-to fashion heaven, tons of sheer, lace bodysuits



Photo by Dominique Vinas

Nayadira, sophomore, in all black, rocking a sheer top and cotton leggings, with accents of red for the finishing touch.

and accessories that are perfect for the spring," said Gihann Elshiekh, a sophomore.

Another trend that is being seen across campus is the fashion obsession of crosses.

Crosses are a very big hit with them being worn on clothing, accessories such as rings and bracelets and are even being put on nails for design.

Even sneakers now have a

classic, feminine look. Sneaker wedges are hot on the market and have been sold out in numerous stores due to both celebrity and model obsession among young girls.

Hair has changed a lot from last season as well, although some hair trends are lingering into the spring. Fall was all

"Since the retro look is back, I find that American Apparel is the go to fashion heaven."

about the "hombre" look, but stylists have tweaked it slightly and now we have the "reverse hombre". This means a lighter color on top, fading into a darker color on the bottom.

Also, the high bun is being brought to the next level as many celebrities are now doing what is called the "sock bun". This is an oversized donut shaped bun that sits on top of your head and screams sophistication. Buns are just popular in general and come in all different shapes and sizes, but the high ballerina buns, top knots and sock buns are the three most fashionable hair trends for this season.

Makeup remains very natural, just as in the fall, bronze styles are ancient history and it's all about being comfortable in your own skin. For girls who are pale they now have no worries because pale is attractive this season. Although for the most part the makeup is simple, lipstick is very essen-

tial and is the finishing touch that brings the whole ensemble together. Whether it's a classic nude lipstick, or a dark red wine, this spring, lipstick is a girl's best friend. Just like the hair, hombre nails are a big hit as well, along with the rounded shape and elegant rhinestone caviar detailed nails.

"The rounded and pointed nail trend is definitely sweeping through the fashion world right now," said Alanna Foxx, a senior and beauty specialist/entrepreneur. "It's a break from the traditional square shape, or French manicure nails, and I think it's here to stay for many more seasons hereafter."

CANCELLED (Continued from page 1)

with her fine arts class that was cancelled. She didn't know her class was cancelled until the first day she went to class and no one was there.

"I asked the secretary and she told me it was cancelled and I was livid," said Valeanu,

"I feel like no one was to blame but no one knew anything. It was ridiculous."

Castiglione, in a Jan. 10 email, characterized the decisions as "managerial incompetence." He said courses that run infrequently, but that students

need to graduate were among the classes cancelled. Additionally, many classes were cancelled by mistake including possibly all courses offered in China, as well as a large number of classes with large enrollments at Kean@Ocean.

The KFT estimated that some 400 courses were cancelled and it's unclear how many were reinstated.

"We asked for the number of sections cancelled, the number of students affected, the justifications for the cancellations

and the plan to resolve the cascade of problems," the email said. "...We have not as yet received a response."



the oscars

By Emily Dell'Olivo

And The Nominees Are...



Photo: indiewire.com

“The movie really puts you in the perspective of the time period. You get a good grasp of what the culture was like.”

The spring award season will come to an end on February 24 with the 85th annual Academy Awards. Oscars will be presented for 21 categories including, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Costume Design, Best Director and many more.

The most prestigious award by far is Best Picture. The winner will be known by everyone to be the finest movie that was released in 2012.

The nominees for this award are “Armour”, “Life of Pi”, “Argo”, “Lincoln”, “Beasts of the Southern Wild”, “Silver Linings Playbook”, “Django Unchained”, “Les Misérables” and “Zero Dark Thirty”. Predicted most likely to win by the media are “Lincoln”, “Argo” and “Zero Dark Thirty”, with chances being given for both “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Life of Pi”.

There have only been three times in 85 years that a best picture won without its director being nominated. In this case, Ben Affleck for “Argo” and Kathryn Bigelow for “Zero Dark Thirty” were not nominated in this category. Quentin Tarantino has been similarly snubbed in the Best Director category for his western, “Django Unchained.” This leaves “Lincoln” ahead in the Best Picture race.

Daniel Day-Lewis, who portrayed the lead role in “Lincoln”, has already won Best Actor for Critic’s

Choice Award, Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild. Director Steven Spielberg is also an Academy favorite, which weighs in “Lincoln’s” favor for winning the award.

However, “Argo” has already won the Critic’s Choice Award, the Golden Globes, the Screen Actors Guild and the Producers Guild Award for Best Picture. Is this the year that “Argo” will beat the odds?

Kevin Galazin, a senior, saw two of the perspective Best Picture nominees, “Lincoln” and “Django Unchained.”

“It was appealing to a different audience,” Galazin said about “Lincoln.” “It was really slow and not exciting. Lincoln’s character was well-portrayed and I thought he did a good job. Overall, it was not my type of movie. I would not choose it to win the award.”

Galazin was much more pleased with the outcome of “Django Unchained.”

“Jamie Foxx was excellent and surprised me with his role”, he said. “It was historically accurate and there was a strong cast. Tarantino is very talented. The movie really puts you in the perspective of the time period. You get a good grasp of what the culture was like. I would definitely say this movie deserves Best Picture of the year.”

Only time will tell which one of these nine acclaimed films will win Best Picture at the Academy Awards. On February 24 the votes will be in and the winner will be announced.

music

By Darian Maduruh

Essential Beatle Albums

I’ll admit: I believe that the Beatles are truly the greatest musical act that ever walked the face of the earth. For over a decade, the John, Paul, George and Ringo provided some of the most memorable songs and albums of the 20th century. The Fab Four helped shaped modern music and pop culture through their willingness to experiment musically, their trendsetting styles of clothing, and their offbeat, charismatic personalities.

However, there must be a generation of music listeners who doesn’t really know why The Beatles are so revered. It’s to the point where, earlier this year, a trending twitter topic was “Who is Paul McCartney?” (A sad day indeed.)

For people who need a primer on the Liverpool rock band, here are some essential Beatles albums:

“A Hard Day’s Night” (1964): When the Beatles arrived in America in 1964, the kick-started the British Invasion and excited teenage girls everywhere. This album was released in the heart of what was called “Beatlemania,” and is the best example of their early rock ‘n’ roll style. Make no mistake, the Beatles started out as a boy band, but unlike a One Direction album, you can listen to “A Hard Day’s Night” and not kick yourself for doing so. From the

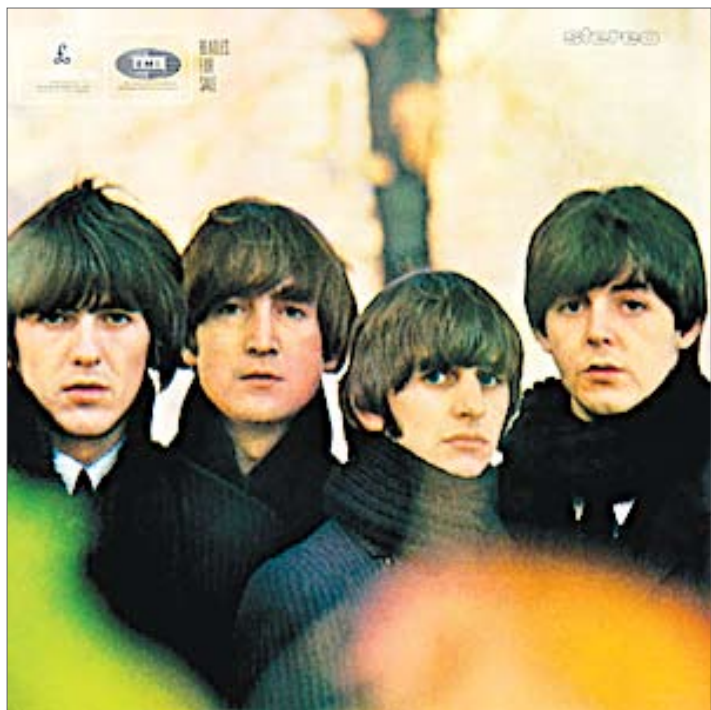


Photo: Robert Freeman/EMI Photographs

trippy guitars. “She’s Leaving Home” uses strings and a haunting vocal by Paul McCartney (with John Lennon co-singing on the chorus) to paint a tragic portrait of a teen runaway. And I can’t mention this album without mentioning its last and best track:

“There must be a generation of music listeners who don’t really know why The Beatles are so revered”

manic and upbeat title track to its last, the more somber “I’ll Be Back,” “A Hard Day’s Night” is Pop Beatles at its finest.

“Rubber Soul/Revolver”: Technically, these are two separate albums, but for me, they feel connected in the same way the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy was connected. Here, you see a leap in the experimentation of the Beatles’ style of writing. Beginning with “Rubber Soul,” they start dealing with more complicated themes. They no longer talk about holding hands; they talk about one-night stands (“Norwegian Wood”), people going nowhere (The appropriately titled “Nowhere Man”), and the nostalgia of days and people gone by (“In My Life”). “Revolver,” while dealing with themes of loneliness (“Eleanor Rigby”) sonically takes things further, heading towards the psychedelic sound of...

“Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” (1967): For some, this is the greatest album of all time. By the late ‘60s, rock ‘n’ roll was stretching beyond its blues and R&B origins, and the Beatles led the way with this 13-track album. The title track is an energetic opener, one that instantly leads into “With a Little Help from My Friends,” a bouncy and optimistic tune perfectly fitting Ringo Starr, the singer on the track. “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” is like “Alice in Wonderland,” from the imaginative lyrics to the

“A Day in the Life,” a collaboration between Lennon and McCartney, is not just one of the best Beatles songs, but one of the best songs period.

“Abbey Road” (1969): On the verge of breaking up, The Beatles made their last album. Starting off with the Smooth “Come Together,” “Abbey Road” is where guitarist George Harrison basically steals the show. “Something” and “Here Comes the Sun” are basically the two best tracks on the album, and I’m sure many of you are familiar with the latter song. Still, while Harrison put out the best tracks, the other three have memorable moments of their own. “I Want You (She’s So Heavy)” has Lennon putting out a powerful and memorable vocal performance, complete with a hypnotic melody of guitar riffs and moog synthesizers. Ringo once again puts out a bright, kid-friendly song with “Octopus Garden,” and Paul has a great vocal performance of his own with “Oh Darling.” The last eight songs on the album provide the infamous “Abbey Road Medley,” an epic conclusion to a great album and a legendary band.

P.S: “Past Masters” is also recommended, as it’s a compilation album featuring some of the Beatles’ most famous songs (“She Loves You,” “Hey Jude”).

games

By Kyle Lawrence

Nintendo’s WiiU: Designed to Impress



Photo: Ripton.com

The Wii U is the latest home gaming console from Nintendo. After the success of their previous console, the Wii, the company has created an even more impressive system with significantly greater power than the Wii and is the first from Nintendo to support HD and 1080p input.

While the motion control of the Wii has been phased out in favor of more traditional gaming controls, a large touch screen has been added to the controller, giving the Wii U Game Pad the functionality of both a tablet and a traditional gaming controller. The screen is used not only as a touchpad, but as a secondary screen for most games where game play can be viewed, allowing the television to be used freely.

You can even program the pad to control your television, eliminating the need to juggle the pad and the remote while you switch input, change volume, or power the televi-

sion on or off.

Just like the 3DS, the Wii U has an eShop where you can download games without ever having to leave home.

Though there is not a Virtual Console option yet, as featured on the Wii, it has been confirmed that

application being used, with both comments and a drawing pad where players can make surprisingly artistic pictures.

These posts can even be made while playing games such as “New Super Mario Brothers U.”, The comments can appear before or after

“After the success of their previous console, the Wii, Nintendo has created an even more impressive system.”

many classic games are being re-created for download.

One of the most unique features of the Wii U is called Miiiverse. Miiiverse serves as a message board with sub-boards for each game or application being played by people around the world. In Miiiverse, players can comment on the game or

you enter a level or when you die, possibly showing tips and warnings other players have left behind.

For those worried that all the money spent on Wii controllers, discs, or virtual console games will be wasted, the Wii U is backward compatible with all Wii games. The controllers can be used for multi-

player and some single-player portions of games. One of the best-selling games on the Wii U currently is “the New Super Mario Brother. U,” which is the latest in the successful “New Super Mario Brother” Series.

The game starts off with Bowser and his Koopalings invading Princess Peach’s castle and flinging Mario, Luigi and two Toads across the kingdom. The group must make their way through a variety of “Super Mario World”-inspired levels to reclaim the castle from Bowser. The game is simple enough for even the most casual gamers, but can be challenging enough to give even veteran players a hard time. With coin challenges, extra play modes and multiplayer, the “New Super Mario Brothers game” can provide hours of thrilling fun.

The darker of the Wii U launch titles has been “ZombiiU.” In this game zombies are rampaging through England and you have to survive the onslaught and find out the answer to what caused all this.

One thing that separates this game from many others of its sub-genre is the functionality of the Wii U game pad, which can be used to scan items, locate living people or creatures, and provide quick access to inventory. One of the most interesting features is the death system.

When your character dies, they die for good

If you’re looking for a game that really flexes all of the Wii U’s technological muscles, this is the game to get. As for the console itself, it appears Nintendo has once again outdone themselves in the best way possible.

Charming, yet lacking structure marks a tribute to a great director

film

By Bryan C. Kuriawa

Movie buffs and critics around the world have often cited Alfred Hitchcock and his 51 years of work as that of a true Master of Suspense. His movies have been regarded as landmarks due to their style, direction or in some cases, the narratives themselves with one of his most famous films being “Psycho.” A horror thriller identified closely with its culturally famed shower scene remains a classic, unblemished by three sequels and a 1998 remake by Gus Van Saint. Now, first-time director Sacha Gervasi revisits the making of this masterpiece in an entertaining bio entitled, “Hitchcock.”

In 1959, fresh from the success of his latest film, “North by Northwest,” director Alfred Hitchcock (Anthony Hopkins) is finding it difficult to determine a new project for Paramount Studios. While his wife, Alma (Helen Mirren) and the rest of Hollywood believe he should make another light-hearted thriller, Hitchcock is more interested in the Robert Bloch novel, “Psycho.” Finding Paramount unwilling to finance his film, Hitchcock funds the production himself and hires several seasoned actors and his previous find, Vera Miles (Jessica Biel). As production begins under a cover of secrecy, Hitchcock will find this project to be more work than anticipated.

Acting-wise, the cast-members are all excellent, demonstrating their talents without much difficulty. As Hitchcock, Anthony Hopkins portrays the role in an eccentric manner that demonstrates a director fighting for his newest creation against the Hollywood machine.

Helen Mirren is charming as Hitchcock’s wife, Alma, who is the logical side of her husband’s creative ability, attempting to navigate their lives. Scarlett Johansson and Jessica Biel are both successful as Janet Leigh and Vera Miles, each representing a different kind of character, with Leigh proving to be more open, in contrast to close-mindedness of Miles. As Anthony Perkins, James D’Arcy is entertaining, appearing as shy and nervous as Perkins appears in Hitchcock’s own film.

An previous journalist, screenwriter and director of the award-winning documentary, “Anvil! The Story of Anvil,” Sacha Gervasi makes a successful leap into mainstream cinema with this feature. His direction and camerawork are both well-composed, largely capturing the ideals of a period piece locale, and generally well-shot with a warm color palette.

On a similar note, credit must be given to musical composer Danny Elfman, whose score largely gives the narrative a seemingly light-hearted feel in contrast to the onscreen visuals. Unfortunately, the film’s main source of difficulty emerges in the screenplay by John McLaughlin, one of the writers for 2010’s “Black Swan.” While McLaughlin does develop the onscreen characters without much trouble, he fails to develop a consistent tone as to the narrative’s direction once production on “Psycho” begins. He contrasts the difficulties between Hitchcock and actress Vera Miles, based in part on fact, yet becomes stunted with the marital troubles between Alfred and his wife. This takes away from the scenes depicting the production of the film, and eventually loses sight as to the main focus, which can either be the making of “Psycho” or Hitchcock’s relationships with women.

Overall, “Hitchcock” proves to be a light-hearted, yet enjoyable look into



Photo: FoxSearchlight

one of cinema’s most admired and respected filmmakers. While the narrative structure does suffer under the weight of its lack of focus, this movie succeeds from the entertaining and engaging performances of its cast and the talent of a promising director.

Final Rating: 7/10.

Rocky start for Kean men's basketball team



Cougars hot-hand Junior Michael Burton.

Photo: Kean Athletics

"The new season had many fans and students hoping for a bounce-back period for the Cougar squad."

By Raymond Gurbiwicz

Missed opportunities and a few bad bounces would be a good way to summarize the beginning of the season for the Kean University men's basketball team.

So far the 2012-2013 season has not been kind to the Cougar team, starting the period with five straight losses, three

of those coming within the recent conference play. To make matters worse, the five defeats were by an average of only nine points each.

The games the Cougars have lost have been pretty well-played for the most part. Some blame could be placed due to turnovers, however. The Cougars averaged 13.6 turnovers per game during the five-

game span, a number that if lowered, certainly would have helped bring the team to their first victory.

Also for the Cougars, their shooting percentage was just .396 from the floor, while they were also shooting a rough .306 percent from beyond the three-point line.

All the disappointment in these games comes after a tough conclusion to last season. After a 2011-2012 year with a 7-20 record, the new season had many fans and students hoping for a bounce-back period for the Cougar squad.

As many predicted before the season's start, junior Michael Burton has been the hot-hand for the Cougars' offense. Burton averaged a respectable 16.4 points per game through the first five games.

The good news is that the Cougars' defense isn't giving up an enormous number of points per game. With the team giving up an average of 64.4 points to opposing offenses, it isn't an insurmountable task for the team to pick up a few victories in the near future.

It will be interesting to see in the upcoming weeks if the Cougars can build off their close-game losses and try to bounce back to get their season once more on track.

Women's basketball team off to a slow start

By Thomas Antonelle

Despite coming away with a win in a two-game series at the Hampton Inn Tip-Off, the Cougars have not yet found the recipe for victory.

Sitting at 1-4 this season with a losing streak of three games, the team will have to dig deeper to find their key to success. There is opportunity in all aspects of the team's play where they are 0-1 at home, 0-2 away and at .200 on the season.

There is, however, some good news for the Cougars, which is that they are only five games into a 24-game season, with plenty of time to reconfigure.

Being that this is senior

Kyanne Sager's final season the team will hope to send her off on a winning season. Sophomore Anna Rose Pierre was named the Kean Athlete of the Week for her stellar play, averaging 17 points and 8.0

rebounds per game in two contests last week. In their match-up against Ramapo College, she tallied 14 points with nine rebounds and in the team's opening game against the College of New Jersey, recorded a game-high 20 points, including seven

rebounds before halftime to put the Cougars in a good position. Kyanne Sager put up 10 points and five rebounds, while sophomore Shanice Jones had six points, six rebounds and seven assists. She will have to look for an answer, as she tries to carry her

rebounds.

Pierre is leading the team, averaging 19.2 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

In the team's only win of the season, freshman Jatirah Diggs hit a huge three-pointer just

team on the road for the next four games. If they can survive December, then the team should roll through January, as they play six out of 10 games on their home court.

Despite subsequent losses

"There is opportunity in all aspects of the team's play."

at New Jersey City University, University of Scranton and William Paterson University, the team remains ever committed to reversing their situation within the next few weeks.

Should college athletes get paid?

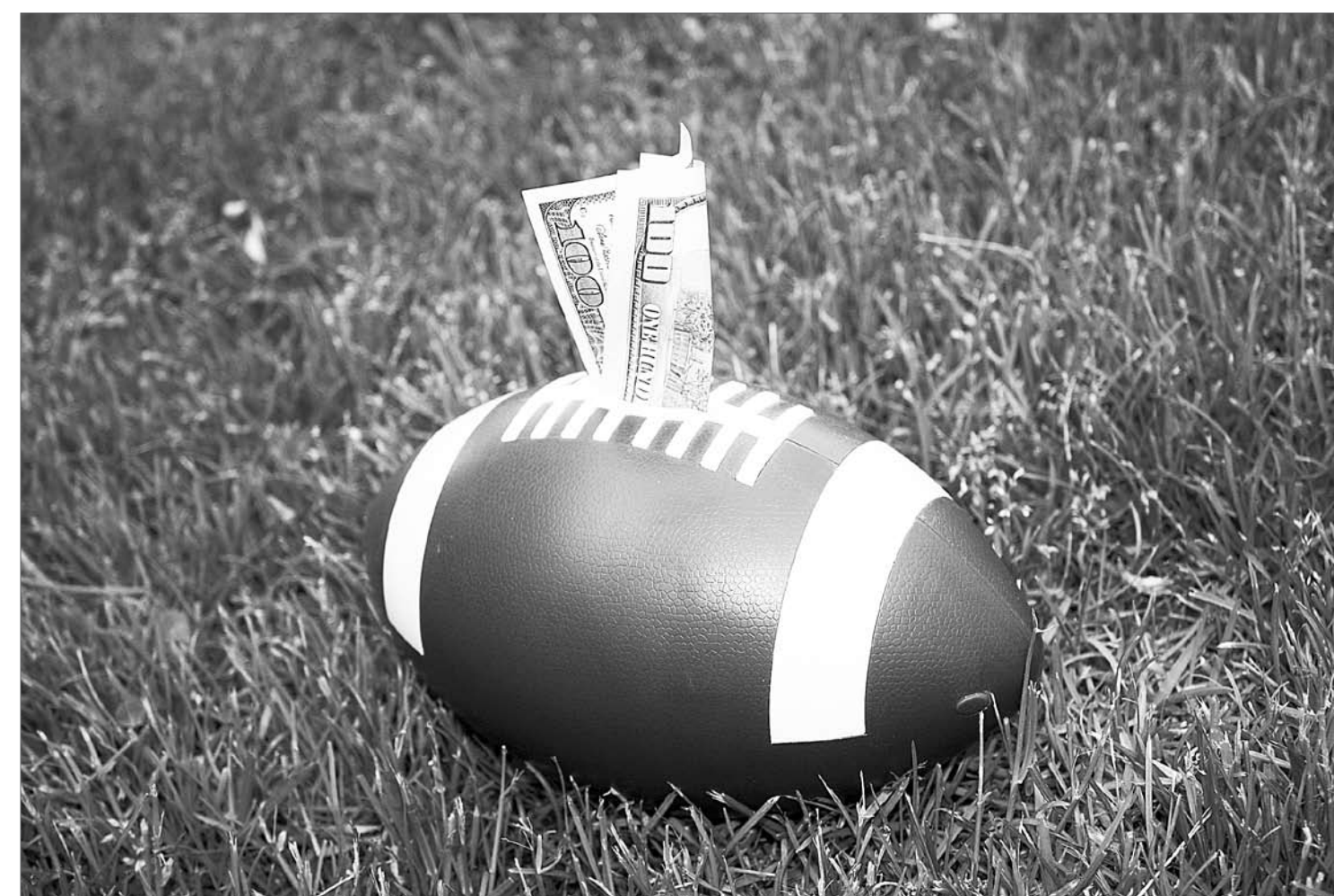


Photo: BigStock.com

By Dan Canova

Before every college football season begins; one topic continues to be addressed: Should college athletes be paid to play?

Yearly, sportswriters all across the country continue to express their opinions on this topic, yet the NCAA has not addressed the situation. Every year, the NCAA is investigating something new, due to college athletes' getting "special treatments" at their universities.

Student-athletes should be entitled a salary from the NCAA each semester. Perhaps the organization believes athletes shouldn't be paid because making it professionally is their reward, where they would eventually be making high salaries in question. Yet college students work just as hard, maybe even harder than professionals.

"I think it would be nice to get a little money for all the hard work we put in, but honestly I believe all college athletes do it for the love of the game," said Steve Vahalla, a Senior Communications major and member of Kean's volleyball team.

College athletes deserve a small salary with the reasonable amount being \$100 per week. That's enough money to get these athletes through a semester, especially if they come from a struggling family.

The weekly pay is enough money for athletes to put toward car maintenance, if they have cars on campus. Or if they are of age, they can go out with friends on the team and get a few drinks. If one is smart enough, they could even save some of the money so they have something to start with when finishing college, especially if they know they are not making it to the professional level.

If your solution is for college athletes to get a job, here's my response. They do not have the time to work on or off campus. They are concentrating solely on performing in the classroom and on the field or court.

In the 2005-2006 collective bargaining agreement, the NBA had to make adjustments in their rules. Pre-2005, high school players were eligible to go pro without going to college at all. As a result of the agreement, high school basketball players had to attend college for a minimum of one year before entering the NBA Draft. The NCAA initiated the rule due to a growing trend of high school players going straight to the pros, which was viewed as a problem. They were concerned because there were a handful of players who became unsuccessful at the NBA level. If they went to college first, they would have had time to develop as a player and an individual,

on and off the court. The reason they went straight to the NBA is simply because of money. They were afraid of playing for free in college, and if they got seriously injured, their dreams of making it professionally would be damaged. If they went pro and got injured, at least they had the financial stability college players did not have. On the other hand, the National Football League requires you to be three years removed from high school to be eligible for the NFL Draft. A simple salary at the college level will eliminate players' leaving early in college basketball, and it similarly protects players who may suffer serious injuries. There are many players in every sport who suffer career-ending injuries in college and are unable to reach their true potential as an athlete, both professionally and financially. Ask yourself, is it really worth it playing for free?

"I think it would be nice to get a little money for all the hard work we put in, but honestly I believe all college athletes do it for the love of the game."

The NCAA needs to take care of their athletes on the field. To this organization, I ask you to take into consideration the health risks these young 18- and 19-year-old athletes face on an everyday basis. They take beatings on the field during games, in practice, and mentally in the classroom. These student-athletes are taken advantage of, and it's not right. Student-athletes produce millions of dollars annually for universities in America. They are incapable of working on or off campus because they are putting their work into studies and their performances in sports for the universities and a salary of \$100 a week is fair. Give back to the students who have given to you all these years.

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Vahalla looks to lead volleyball team to glory



Stephen Vahalla at the net.

Photo: Kean Athletics

By Mike Jago

Since the program's inception in 2011, the men's volleyball team has been one of the more successful teams on campus. In their 2012 season, the team finished with an impressive 25-11 record, along with an NCAA tournament berth. The players will be looking to build on that success in the 2013 campaign, and one player in particular looks to leave his mark.

Stephen Vahalla, a six-foot-six senior from Bloomfield, was one of the team's most valuable players last season. His personal achievements include

Skyline Conference Player of the Week and second-team All-American. Vahalla had a great 2012 season for the Cougars, but he expects this year to be even better.

"Personally, I am aiming for first team All-American," he said. "I know it's going to take a lot of hard work and determination, but I know I can do it."

While he is known for his on-court capabilities, he was also noted for his abilities in the classroom. Vahalla was selected as an Academic All-American, something he would like to duplicate once more.

"I would like to make the

Academic All-American team again, it was great to see that my grades were being noticed too," he said.

With the loss of two graduated seniors, Vahalla now steps into the role of leader and mentor for the other players on the team. With individual accomplishment comes greater responsibility, and Vahalla is ready to take on the role of leader full force.

"It feels great to know my other teammates look up to me," he said. "I always do my

best in trying to encourage everyone whenever they need it."

Vahalla will step into the mentor role for the incoming freshmen that he says are ready to help the team succeed.

"I try my best in helping the newer players and getting them to the level I know they can be at," he said. "Coach Perkins told me that in order for the younger players and my other teammates to get better, I need to step up in every practice and scrimmage."

It's been a great career for the young athlete, who has received national attention for

"Vahalla had a great 2012 season for the Cougars, but he expects this year to be even better."

best in trying to encourage everyone whenever they need it."

The Cougars face a tough task this season, and they will have no time to waste, as they face the 2012 National Champion, Springfield College. Springfield finished the 2012 season with a 32-5 record, and Vahalla knows that to be the best, you need to beat the best.

"We have a tough schedule this year, but I know it's going to make us a stronger team in the end," he said. "When the NCAA tournament rolls around, I want every team wishing they didn't have to play us."

Vahalla is a centerpiece for a Kean squad expected to do great things in the coming season. The pressure is great, but he is ready to exemplify what a student-athlete is.

He knows that none of his goals will be possible without the help of his teammates, and the team can only go far if they are able to work together. Va-

halla will step into the mentor role for the incoming freshmen that he says are ready to help the team succeed.

"I try my best in helping the newer players and getting them to the level I know they can be at," he said. "Coach Perkins told me that in order for the younger players and my other teammates to get better, I need to step up in every practice and scrimmage."

It's been a great career for the young athlete, who has received national attention for

his level of play. His All-American bids and Player of the Week nominations have helped put the Cougars in the national spotlight. While he is enjoying his time at Kean to the fullest, he thought about what he wants to do after his last game in a Cougar uniform.

"I was invited to play in an all-star game in Brazil this summer, and Coach Perkins has mentioned about leagues in Puerto Rico and Europe," he said. "If I don't continue my volleyball career after graduation, I plan to work for one of the major television networks like CBS, ABC or NBC."

The Cougars begin the season against a tough Rutgers-Newark squad, and the road only gets tougher. The team goals of a national rank, an NCAA tournament bid and winning the conference will only come if they work together, and Vahalla and his squad couldn't be more excited.

Sports Schedule

February

- 02/12: Men's Volleyball vs. New Jersey City University
- 02/13: Women's Basketball @ Rutgers-Newark
- 02/13: Men's Basketball @ Rutgers-Newark
- 02/17: Men's Volleyball vs. The Sage Colleges
- 02/17: Men's Volleyball vs. Purchase College
- 02/19: Men's Volleyball @ Mount St. Vincent's
- 02/22: Baseball vs. Mount St. Vincent's
- 02/23: Baseball vs. The College of Brockport
- 02/23: Men's Volleyball vs. Nazareth College (@ New York, NY)
- 02/23: Men's Volleyball vs. Vassar College (@ New York, NY)
- 02/23: Men's Lacrosse @ Adrian College
- 02/24: Men's Volleyball vs. Stevens (@ New York, NY)
- 02/24: Men's Volleyball vs. Baruch College (@ New York, NY)
- 02/26: Baseball vs. Moravian
- 02/27: Women's Lacrosse vs. Lycoming
- 02/27: Men's Volleyball @ The Sage Colleges
- 02/27: Men's Lacrosse vs. Vassar College
- 02/28: Baseball vs. DeSales

Super Bowl ticket prices expensive as always

By Mak Ojutiku

Super Bowl weekend ended a few days ago, but the game is still fresh in the minds of the millions of people around the world who watched it. The media, as always, spent a good amount of time reflecting on what happened during the game, which plays were most important, which players stepped up their game and many more related items.

There is an issue, however, that isn't being given a lot of attention, an issue that doesn't have anything to do with the game itself, but with the fans that devoted their time and money to it. The issue being referred to are the tickets themselves and how incredibly expensive they are. Of all the pro sporting events in the U.S., the Super Bowl has the costliest tickets and package deals currently.

According to StubHub.com, the average Super Bowl ticket went for a whopping \$3,195.14. Even the cheapest ticket, which was \$1,776, was out of reach for even some of the most die-hard NFL fans. That cost would have gotten you a seat in the uppermost reaches of the Super Dome, commonly referred to as "the nosebleeds".

On top of the seating prices, you also have to factor in the traveling and lodging costs many people often endure.

When talking to the average football fan, it becomes clear that ticket costs are a major hindrance to anyone who wants



Illustration: Brigit Bauma

to watch the big game live. Senior and Iota Phi Theta frat member Kyle Howell is among those fans.

"The tickets are too expensive," said Howell. "People

would rather watch it on TV because of the price."

The exorbitant prices of Super Bowl tickets are going to become considerably more apparent to people in our area

within the coming year. Next year, the Super Bowl will be played at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, which is only a 20-minute drive from the Kean campus. Even now, before the 2013-2014 NFL season has even begun, there are various individuals in our area who are lamenting the fact that they can't afford tickets to the big game. Howell is one of them.

"I would love to go," said Howell. "But the most I'd pay is \$700."

It's safe to say that a good number of people in the New York/New Jersey area will share the same sentiments as Howell, next year. There may be a silver lining for fans, though as resale ticket prices went down roughly 12 percent from last year's Super Bowl and 2011's ticket prices were 10 percent lower than Super Bowl LXV's. Fans looking to go to next year's Super Bowl shouldn't be too optimistic about ticket prices, though it's hard to call it a definite trend, especially when you consider that prices are three times as much they were a decade ago.

They also need to remember that next year's Super Bowl, being in the New York Metro area, could very well have an unprecedented demand surrounding it. High prominence almost always result in higher prices.

Hopefully, though, the tickets will be at an affordable rate in the coming year.