

The Argo

The Independent Student Newspaper of Stockton University

February 5, 2018

VOLUME 88 ISSUE 15

"Remember, no one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

-Eleanor Roosevelt



President Donald Trump's First State of Union Address

(gettyimages)

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Stockton in Manahawkin Opens Larger Site, Expands

Health Science Programs

Diane D'Amico
FOR THE ARGO



(Photo courtesy of Stockton University)

Students arriving for the spring semester at Stockton University at Manahawkin discovered it had grown to more than three times its size.

The expansion into the adjacent 7,915 square-foot building at 712 E. Bay Avenue in Manahawkin, former site of Rothman Institute Orthopaedics, gives nursing students more room for hands-on learning in the six-bed Foundations of Nursing lab and seven physical assessment examining rooms.

Stockton at Manahawkin now also has room for

additional general education courses for the convenience of students living in Ocean County.

"I love it, said student Ann Smith, 21, of Manahawkin, who along with classmates in the Accelerated BSN, or TRANSCCEL program, used the site for the first time on Jan. 18.

The Accelerated BSN students will spend one full day a week in class at the site in addition to their clinical assignments and other classes.

Art work from the Noyes Museum collection, including some by Fred Noyes, is exhibited throughout the site, adding color and interest.

"It is much more spacious and very beautiful," said student Christian Dy of Mullica Hill.

The new site includes a lobby/lounge area with seating where students can eat lunch. There is a faculty lounge and small student hospitality area with snacks and coffee.

"They are here all day, and we want to them feel welcomed and comfortable," said Michele Collins-Davies, the site manager.

"They did a really good job," said student Lindsay Carignan of Somers Point, who said her drive is a bit longer now on Thursdays, but it's worth it.

Edward Walton, interim associate dean of health sciences at Stockton said the new site facilitates the expansion of the 15-month Accelerated BSN program and the RN to BSN program, a hybrid program that meets both online and in Mana- See HEALTH pg. 5

Artist James Razko Explores War Through Painting: An Interview

Rachel Ogun
ARGO STAFF WRITER

Inspired by his experience serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, James Razko's artwork ranges from traditional portraiture to stirring, and chaotic abstract paintings. He painted the portraits of past Stockton University presidents that is permanently displayed in the university campus center. Although born in Washington Township, New Jersey, James now works and resides in Brooklyn, NY. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York Academy of Art in 2015.

Rachel Ogun: How did you find yourself pursuing a career in art? Have you always been driven to be an artist?

James Razko: Since I was a kid, I've always drawn. But I never really thought about being an artist until later in life. After I was in the military, I realized I wanted to be an artist, and it was kind of overnight. I've pursued art ever since.

RO: Have you ever ascribed to "waiting for inspiration" before beginning a new piece?

JR: Yeah, there are always moments of inspiration, but I don't really wait for them. I just set myself somewhat of a work schedule. I usually start working in the morning and stop at night, for maybe eight to twelve hours a day. It depends on what I'm doing that day. If I'm feeling uninspired, I at least try to do something. It could be anything, even cleaning the studio.

RO: So, you don't ascribe to specific See RAZKO pg. 4

Enthusiastic Cactus Promotes RHA at Stockton Get Involved Fair

Shannon Joyce
FOR THE ARGO



(Photo courtesy of Shannon Joyce)

From January 23-25, Stockton University hosted the Get Involved Fair. Students were able to explore over 150 clubs and organizations, who had tables set up from A-J wings.

Among those tables was The Residence Hall Association (RHA). According to their Facebook, "RHA exists to serve the residential students at Stockton University through programming and program funding, while providing formal recommendations to the Office of Residential Life for campus improvements."

Sedona (Sadie) Sub, Second Vice President of RHA, was extremely enthusiastic in promoting See CACTUS pg. 4

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(hbcuring.com)

Indie Lens Pop-up Presents: Stanley Nelson's "Tell Them We Are Rising."

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The Financial Aid Priority Deadline: Why is it so Important?

Christopher Connors
(Associate Director of Financial Aid)
FOR THE ARGO

As your Spring semester begins to get busy, it can be easy to forget about filing the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to meet upcoming deadlines. One of those important deadlines is the priority deadline. For Stockton, our priority deadline for filing the FAFSA is March 1.

Why is the priority deadline so important? This deadline is the date returning students must file their FAFSA to receive priority consideration in the financial aid awarding process. Students who do not meet the deadline are considered for limited forms of financial aid. Priority funding may include State and Federal grants, as well as Federal work study funds. Filing your FAFSA early does not guarantee you will receive money from programs, such as the work study program, but it does increase the chances of receiving it. Students are highly encouraged to submit their FAFSA before the priority deadline, even if they only want to receive partial aid.

With the March 1 deadline approaching, the Office of Financial Aid is encouraging all students to submit their 2018-2019 FAFSA as soon as possible at www.fafsa.gov. Returning students who have successfully filed the FAFSA can expect to receive award notifications after the spring semester.

Housing For Rent One Block From the Beach

We would like to advertise a 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath property for 2-3 students for the school year of 2018-2019. The lease will begin in September to mid-May school calendar. For two students, rent will be \$1100.00 and for three students \$1450.00. The home is furnished and one block to the beach in a safe, quiet, and beautiful neighborhood. Landlord will pay half of the internet bill and students are responsible for their own gas and electric. Please contact Bob at beachblock123@gmail.com or call 856-261-7102.

The Argo wants you . . . to join our team this semester!

Staff writers and photographers needed!
All positions are paid!

For more information, email us at StocktonArgo@gmail.com



"Action is the foundational key to all success."

-Pablo Picasso

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In House
SINGLE PRICING (per placement)
Full-page (10" x 16")
\$250.00 (mono), \$300.00 (color)
Half-page (10" x 8")
\$150.00 (mono), \$200.00 (color)
Quarter-page (5" x 8")
\$75.00 (mono), \$100.00 (color)
Eighth-page (5" x 4")
\$35.00 (mono), \$75.00 (color)

MULTIPLE PRICING
(minimum 6 placements)
Full-page (10" x 16")
\$200.00 (mono), \$250.00 (color)
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\$100.00 (mono), \$150.00 (color)
Quarter-page (5" x 8")
\$50.00 (mono), \$85.00 (color)
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\$30.00 (mono), \$55.00 (color)

Outside Organization
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Quarter-page (5" x 8")
\$75.00 (mono), \$100.00 (color)
Eighth-page (5" x 4")
\$35.00 (mono), \$75.00 (color)

Deadline for advertisements is 12:00pm on the Tuesday before the following Monday's paper.

Graphical advertisements should be sent in .jpg or .pdf format and emailed to the advertising and business manager at ArgoAdManager@gmail.com.

Contract with the Argo must be electronically signed and returned before the advertisement can run.

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Brenda Brathwaite '05, '07, '11 is an eighth grade teacher at Pennsylvania Avenue School in Atlantic City and a student in the Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership Program.

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Community

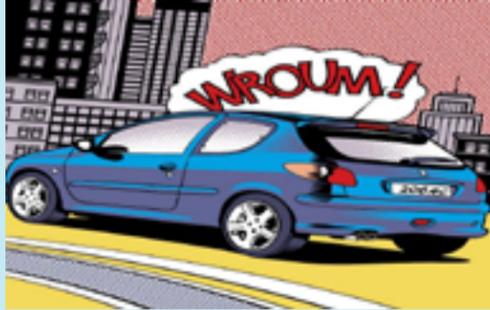
Police Blotter: 01/24/18-01/30/18

Fire Alarms –
 Housing I – 6
 Housing II – 0
 Housing III – 0
 Housing IV – 0
 Housing V – 0
 Chris Gaupp- 0
 Lakeside – 0

Housing Lockouts –
 Housing I – 2
 Housing II – 2
 Housing III – 2
 Housing IV – 0
 Housing V – 1
 Chris Gaupp- 0

MV Accidents – 0
 MV Lockouts - 3
 MV Stops – 35
 Property Checks – 122
 Suspicious MV – 2
 Suspicious Persons – 4
 Suspicious Activity – 4
 Harassment- 0
 Escorts- 10
 Theft- 1

Caller reports suspicious writing near his car:
 Patrol pointed out a small amount of what appeared to be spilled white paint with no malicious intent.



(Photo courtesy of pinterest)

911 for lockout: Caller dialed 9-1-1 from the emergency call box to advise that she was locked out of her apartment. She was advised to go to lakeside.



(Photo courtesy of NPR)

Black Jacket Screamer: Caller reported that female in black jacket was yelling at two males out by gazebo



(Photo courtesy of pinterest)

Robbery: Galloway had a robbery at Wells Fargo Bank. Suspect had 50's and 100's on him totaling in \$800.00.



(Photo courtesy of vectorstock)

getcentered STOCKTON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CENTER PROGRAMMING

This Week at the CAMPUS CENTER...

Monday, February 5th
Munchie Monday

Free snacks!
 1pm, Grand Hall



Funday Monday

Relaxation Night –
 Snacks, Mandala Coloring, Music
 8pm, Coffeehouse



Wednesday, February 7th
Tunes at Noon

featuring Moushumi
 Great music while you eat!
 12pm, Coffeehouse



Thursday, February 8th
Movie Night

featuring Thor: Ragnarok
 Free movie, snacks, and prizes!
 8:30pm, Theatre

Saturday, February 10th
Movie Night

featuring Thor: Ragnarok
 Free movie, snacks, and prizes!
 8:30pm, Theatre



Where Campus Life Comes Alive



Cont. From Front: Razko

rituals to creating each piece of artwork?

JR: No, no. As long as I'm in the studio and feel like I'm there to make something.

RO: Does there come a point when working, that you relinquish control of the process to let your mind and movement guide you?

JR: Sometimes. Maybe in the beginning stages of making something, but towards the end, I don't know if maybe it's because I'm methodical, I usually have a plan that I know exactly what I want to do, and I work towards that. Even though it may not always end up the way I want it to, I have an idea in my mind of what I want to accomplish. It's in the beginning stages when I'm creating the idea of the object, that is when I'm letting myself be freer. But after that I'm more rigid.

RO: How do you think your artwork is relevant in today's world?

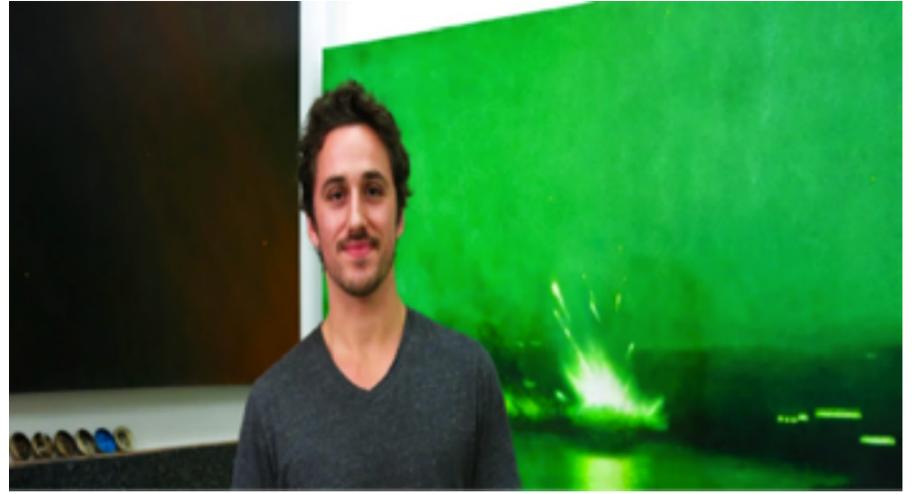
JR: Part of the reason I wanted to be an artist is after going in the military and being overseas in Iraq. I felt that I had something to share that most people in the U.S hadn't seen besides on television. It was an experience that I felt other people should have an idea of. I felt the best way I can try to do that is through art. I just want to share my experience, and maybe pass on something to people who see it.

RO: When you're making your work, do you begin with the intent of conveying a specific message.

JR: No. I always try to leave my paintings, and work in general, open because I don't want to leave people out. So, I try to leave it open to a personal interpretation. I usually have an idea, but not a specific message I want to get across. Maybe in some particular paintings I do. I don't have anything specific that I want people to take away from it. I just want viewers to be able to reflect, with a little bit of introspection, and think about their relationship to the painting, instead of trying to force something.

RO: Is any single piece of artwork you've made more significant to you than the others?

JR: Hopefully not. I guess every time I start a new painting I feel like that's the most important painting, because I just like making new things. So whenever I start a new painting, I think it is going to be the best, but that does not always happen. My favorite painting might be one I made at Stockton for my thesis show; it was of a soldier just lying



(Photo courtesy of jamesrazko.com)

over something. I don't know if it's a great painting, but it was one of my first real paintings that I thought of as mine.

RO: Does it hold the most importance to you?

JR: I guess it would, because I don't know if I would sell the painting. It's not on display in my house; I have it rolled up in my closet. It does, maybe.

RO: But you just don't know what it is yet?

JR: Yeah, I'm just not sure what it is yet. I think because it was the first time I felt like an artist, I'm just holding on to that idea. It has nothing to do with the painting. It's just the idea of feeling like an artist, or that you're on your way to being an artist.

RO: Metaphysically, is there a unifying theme to all your pieces?

JR: The only unifying theme is just war, really. The culture surrounding war and peoples' relationships to it. There are really different paintings from each series, but war is the only thing that holds them together.

Cont. From Front: Cactus

them. Dressed as a cactus, and dancing to music, she smiled and waved at any passerby.

This enthusiastic cactus explained that RHA is "the voice for residential students."

Sub wants Ospreys to know that the benefit to joining RHA is they have the resources to do anything students wish to change or improve on campus.

She added that the organization is responsible for our water-refill stations, recycling cans, and different services and activities such as the Roommate Social.

When asked why RHA does these things, she replied: "We want to make Stockton a home away from home."

She elaborated that they plan to provide this comfort by hosting different weekend activities this semester for students who stay on campus.

As another bonus, Sub said the organization offers leadership positions. Note that the Career Center recommends every student have at least three leadership positions on their resume before graduation.

So far, Sub's best experience with RHA was attending the above-mentioned Roommate Social. There was food and music, and everyone was given a certain amount of glow stick wristbands to indicate how many roommates were wanted. She recounted that, "going there and hanging out was a really great experience."

When asked why she dressed as a cactus, Sub said it was to bring attention to the table, but also to play off a pun: "Don't be a prick, take a pic!"

If anyone wishes to join RHA, they meet Wednesdays at 8PM in F121.



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February 24, 2018

www.shu.edu/gohNJ

400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey



1 8 5 6

Cont. From Front: Health

hawkin.

“The RN to BSN is for the student who wants the flexibility of an online program, but also some in-class support,” Walton said. “The site fits the needs of students in a welcoming environment.”

The Accelerated BSN program is for students with a bachelor’s degree, typically in a health or science field, who wants to become a registered nurse with a BSN. Twenty-four students are in the current cohort and a new class will start in the fall.

The expansion will also allow Stockton to increase the number of general education and core Health Sciences courses that are offered in

Manahawkin from the current 19 to 31 in the fall.

Summer courses are also offered at the Manahawkin site, and 2018’s offerings will include Science of Forecasting Waves, Baseball History and Literature, Hispanic Literature and Film, Car Culture in America, Beaches, Business Basics and Introduction to Health Sciences.

An official dedication for the expansion will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 8.

Former Stockton Employee, Now Professional Wrestler

Colton Van Cleave

ARGO STAFF WRITER

On Friday, January 26th, the Veterans Affairs Office hosted an OTW Wrestling event at Stockton University’s Event Room. The night was full of rumble and excitement, and on a Friday night full of entertainment and action, I was able to sit down in the ring before the event with Mik Drake, one of OTW’s wrestlers competing in the event.

Mik Drake and I discussed professional wrestling as a whole, and how the industry itself is, in some cases, misconceived by sports fans, and the general public. He deciphered the difference between WWE and a smaller professional wrestling leagues like OTW.

Mik Drake is a Rutgers alumni and Stockton employee who had never thought about wrestling until his freshman year of college. He mostly played basketball throughout high school. Reflecting back on high school his freshman year of college, he started to ask himself why he didn’t take basketball as serious as he should have. The feeling he had of regret and “what could have been,” drove Mik Drake to ask himself the question, “What is it that I really want? What is it that I want to accomplish?”

Sometimes finding your calling can be hard, and that is all part of the experience of life itself. I have interviewed many athletes and “dream catchers” throughout my young, unprofessional journalism career, and they all have a certain vibe when you talk to them.

In regard to Mik Drake, he gives off a certain persona of self-determination, which in return gives you a sense of self-motivation.

Mik Drake is a motivator in every sense of the word, and I look forward to see what the future holds for the OTW Wrestler. You can find the full sit-down interview with Mik Drake and I on Stockton Student Television on YouTube.



(Photo courtesy of Colton Van Cleave)

Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Talent Network

Receives \$275,000 State Grant

Diane D’Amico
FOR THE ARGO

The New Jersey Retail, Hospitality & Tourism Talent Network or, RHTTN South, at Stockton University has received a \$275,000 grant from the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development to continue its work.

The local RHTTN works with area businesses to develop solutions to their workforce challenges securing resources to recruit hire and retain employees in nine counties in the southern part of the state. In 2015, more than half of all private employment in Atlantic and Cape May counties was in leisure, hospitality and retail trades.

The network helps train and retain workers, and offers training in skills needed for hospitality and retail jobs, including customer service and technology training. Staff will do on-site visits and hosts meetings at various locations throughout the communities the network serves.

“Innovations, online platforms and mergers within this marketplace are revolutionizing the way consumers dine, shop and travel,” Center Director Stacy Forman said. “Merchandising convenience, value and authenticity are leading this transformation. The need for increased knowledge and skill is accelerating at a fast pace, driven by the competition inherent in a global economy. We need to re-tool our current workforce and prepare a new workforce to meet these challenges for continued growth of South Jersey’s economy.”

The next meeting of the Coastal Targeted Industry Partnership,

which covers Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties, will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. March 28 at the Atlantic County Library, Galloway Branch.

The next WebEx meeting for the Delaware River Targeted Industry Partnership in Retail, which includes Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14. An in-person meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. April 19 at the Burlington County Library, Evesham location.

The meetings help businesses identify and discuss issues facing their industries and develop strategies to meet workforce needs and close skill gaps in the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.

For more information on the local Talent Network’s services contact Director Stacy Forman at 609 626-3456 or email RHTSouth@stockton.edu.



(Photo courtesy of Stockton University)

Ospreys of the Week

Christopher Rollman
FOR THE ARGO

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Darius Jerkins (Somers Point/Mainland) scored 12.0 points, grabbed 5.0 rebounds and dished a team-high five assists in two games last week. The senior led the team with a .529 (9-17) field goal percentage and tied for the team lead with three blocked shots.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Sasha Williams (Cherry Hill/CH West) averaged 16.5 points, 10.5 rebounds and 4.0 blocks per game in Stockton's two wins last week. The senior also shot .632 (12-19) from the field and 9-10 (.900) from the free throw line, dished four assists and added two steals. During the William Paterson win, Williams moved into second place in NCAA Division III history with 511 career-blocked shots, surpassing Liz Hickey (Mary Washington 2005-08, 510 blocks).

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD: Jared Lewis (Westville/Deptford) competed in three events at the John Covert Classic at Lehigh University last weekend. Lewis, who has the best leap in the country in the triple jump, won for the fourth straight week with a jump of 14.75 meters. The senior also placed second in the long jump (7.19m) and moved into fourth in Division III in the event. For good measure, Lewis finished ninth out of 66 runners in the 60 meter dash (7.18 seconds).

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD: Regina Duncan (Frelinghuysen Twp./North Warren) finished seventh out of 17 runners in the 1000 meters (3:17.83) at the John Covert Classic at Lehigh University last weekend. Duncan also teamed with Nicole Christensen (Jefferson/Jefferson Twp.), Caitlin Glynn (North Plainfield/Union Catholic) and Jesse DeLello (Warren/Watchung Hills) to earn a victory for the Ospreys in the 4x800 relay (10:37.11).

This Week's Game Updates

Christopher Rollman
FOR THE ARGO

Women's Basketball (13-7, 9-4 NJAC)

Latest Results: Stockton 68, The College of New Jersey 45; Stockton 67, William Paterson 63.

Najha Treadwell (Cinnaminson/Cinnaminson) had another strong week, leading the team in rebounding (15.5 rpg), while scoring 15.0 points per game during the week. Treadwell had a double-double in each game, giving her four in the last five contests.

Lea Mendolla (Nutley/Mount St. Dominic) scored 12.0 points per game and led the team with 11 steals and seven assists for the week. Mendolla also grabbed 5.0 rebounds per game in helping Stockton run its winning streak to six straight games. The senior tied her career high with seven steals against William Paterson.

Hailee Porricelli (Howell/Freehold Twp.) went a perfect 4-4 at the line and 3-5 from three-point range (60%) on the way to averaging 9.5 points per game last week.

Upcoming Games: January 31 HOME vs. Rutgers Camden (6 pm); February 3 HOME vs. #22 Montclair State (12 noon).

Men's Basketball (11-9, 5-8 NJAC)

Latest Results: The College of New Jersey 84, Stockton 69; William Paterson 90, Stockton 65.

Kashaun Barnes (Toms River/Manchester Twp.) led the Ospreys in scoring (18.0 ppg) and tied for the team high in steals with three last week.

Steve Ferebee (Galloway/Absegami) set team highs in rebounds (8.0 rebounds per game) and blocks (1.5 bpg) in the pair of games last week.

Upcoming Games: January 31 HOME vs. Rutgers Camden (8 pm); February 3 HOME vs. Montclair State (2 pm).

Men's Track & Field

Latest Results: No Team Scoring at the John Covert Classic at Lehigh

University.

Christian Mele (Cherry Hill/CH East), Matt Cohen (Robbinsville/Robbinsville), Joe D'Amico (Bayville/Central Regional) and Daniel Do (Galloway/Absegami) finished second in the men's 4x800 (8:19.98). Mele also placed third in the 800m (1:58.48) while D'Amico was ninth in the mile (4:31.84).

Daniel Rupert (Stewartville/Phillipsburg) finished seventh in the 3000m (9:39.72) as well.

Upcoming Meets: February 3 at the Dick DeSchraver Invitational at East Stroudsburg University.

Women's Track & Field

Latest Results: No Team Scoring at the John Covert Classic at Lehigh University

The women's 4x800 relay team of Nicole Christensen (Jefferson/Jefferson Twp.), Regina Duncan (Frelinghuysen Twp./North Warren), Caitlin Glynn (North Plainfield/Union Catholic) and Jesse DeLello (Warren/Watchung Hills) earned a victory for the Ospreys (10:37.11). In addition, Duncan was seventh in the 1000m (3:17.83).

The women's 4x400 squad of Christine Daly (Eatontown/Monmouth), Joanna Carluccio (West Caldwell/Caldwell), Cierra Granger (Ocean City/Ocean City) and Vanessa Spollen (Northfield/Mainland) placed fifth (4:19.43).

Justine Hosszu (Manahawkin/Southern Regional) was fifth in the shot put (10.98m).

Christina Welsh (Hamilton/Hamilton West) finished sixth in the 3000m (11:07.51) while Lauren Tigue (West Deptford/West Deptford) tied for seventh in the high jump (1.55m).

The all-freshman 4x400 B team of Erica Burdsall (Bridgeton/Cumberland), Erin Cannon (Howell/Howell), Jayla Harrison (Deptford/Deptford) and Kristy Goff (Brigantine/Holy Spirit) was seventh (4:22.11).

Upcoming Meets: February 3 at the Dick DeSchraver Invitational at East Stroudsburg University.

Alesia Shute Foundation
invites you to an Evening of Inspiration!
9th Year!

NEW VENUE
Tomasello Winery
225 N White Horse Pike
Hammonton, NJ 08037

Saturday, March 3rd, 2018
6-11pm
\$65 per person
Attire is Business Casual

- Complimentary open bar and hors d'oeuvres 6-7pm
- Sumptuous dinner buffet 7:30pm
- Keynote speaker Alesia Shute: What have we accomplished?
- DJ music by Marsdale Production
- Live auction and raffle
- Cash bar from 7pm
- Pre-purchase your tickets at www.EverythingsOkayBook.com, call 609-226-8181 or email Alesia@EverythingsookayBook.com

Your donation can be made to:
The Alesia Shute Foundation • PO Box 274 • Elwood, NJ 08217
Remaining profits (after book donations) will support a monetary donation to CHOP
Everything's Okay can be purchased online at www.everythingsokaybook.com

Tickets available until February 20



Upcoming Midterm Elections January Update

Thomas Urbanik
ARGO STAFF WRITER

With the 2018 Midterms Elections just under nine months away, and the first state primaries in less than 40 days, candidates have begun declaring for seats and the race is beginning to heat up. All 435 seats of the House and 1/3 of the Senate are up for grabs, with many of them remaining competitive.

The Republicans hold a strong 45 seat majority over the Democrats in the House, but their control of the chamber is uncertain for a variety of circumstances. A record number of House Republicans are retiring this term, including our own Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ). As of Jan. 29th, 33 House Republicans have either retired or have elected to run for other offices, eliminating incumbency advantages in a number of competitive races around the country. Some of these retirements, including Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Charlie Dent (R-PA), were already competitive races before their exoduses and are likely to flip Democrat in result. Generic Democrat vs. Generic Republican polls has shown Democrat advantages as high as +13 in mid-January and up on an average of +8 during the last several weeks.

In the Senate, the Republicans hold a razor thin 51-49 majority, after Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL) pulled off an unexpected narrow victory in the special election to replace now-Attorney General Jeff Sessions's seat

just last month. However, it will be a tough task for the Democrats to flip the chamber as 24 Democrats are up for re-election with only 8 Republican-held seats up for grabs this November. The Democrats will have to hold most, if not all, of their seats to have a chance at recapturing the Senate. The Democrats have to defend seats in ten states that Trump won in 2016, with vulnerable incumbents looking ahead to a tough re-election campaign, including Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV).

To have any chance of taking control of the chamber, the Democrats need wins in toss-up states like Nevada, where Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) has seen his approval rating drop significantly, and Arizona, where Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) has announced he is not running for re-election. There are also a few strong red states that are up for grabs. In Tennessee, where Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) has also announced his retirement, the Democrats have a strong candidate in former two-term Governor Phil Bredesen (D-TN), who left office with a resounding 73% approval rating. Texas also has the eyes of Democrats across the country with Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), who has sworn off corporate donors and has cut Sen. Ted Cruz's (R-TX) lead down to single-digits. Despite not taking any PAC money, O'Rourke outraised Cruz in the last two quarters of 2017.

With nine months to go, control of both chambers of Congress is up in the air and it will be an exciting race for who ends up with the majority come next year.

President Donald Trump Delivers First State of Union Address

Colton Van Cleave
ARGO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday January 30th, President Trump gave his first official State of the Union Address to the nation. The hot topic of discussion in the mainstream media going into the address was the topic of immigration reform, which has left republicans and democrats locking horns the past month.

President Trump discussed his bipartisan approach to immigration by stating it in his "four pillar" plan. The President stated: "Based on these discussions, we presented congress with a detailed proposal that should be supported by both parties as a far compromise. One where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs and must have. One of those pillars offers a path toward citizenship for up to 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age. Trump continued, "under our plan, those who meet education and work requirements and show good moral character, will be able

to become full citizens of the United States over a twelve- year period."

President Trump discussed the economy by stating, "the era of economic surrender is totally over." The President focused on trade with foreign countries, and his call for far and reciprocal trade deals. Also stating, "We can lift our citizens from welfare to work, from dependence to independence, and from poverty to prosperity."

President Trump touched on other key important topics such as foreign policy and how the United States and how The President looks to fully fund the military, stating, "Around the world we face rogue regimes, terrorist groups, and rivals like China and Russia that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values. In confronting these horrible dangers, we know that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unmatched power is the surest means to our true and great defense."

San Francisco is Now Dismissing Thousands of Past Marijuana Convictions

Rae Hemple
ARGO STAFF WRITER

In the wake of California's legalization of marijuana for recreational use, San Francisco is forgiving the past by retroactively using the law to expunge or reduce misdemeanor and felony charges dating back to 1975. This move will affect many who have been branded with a criminal history, which makes tasks like being hired for a steady job near impossible, which is why many criminals are repeat offenders. With their marijuana charges being retroactively forgiven, many Californians are going to have a better chance at life, for they are no longer living with their past mistakes.

According to the SFGate, "Proposition 64, which state voters passed in November 2016, legalized the recreational use of marijuana in California for those 21 and older and permitted the possession up to 1 ounce." This new law now will apply to all the crimes that fall within those

perimeters, charging them the way they would have been charged if they were convicted when this law was enacted.

District Attorney George Gascón stated that prosecutors would review convictions almost all at once, which will cut down at long waiting periods and the cost of individual hearings.

Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) tweeted in response to the law: "San Francisco took a big step forward for justice by dismissing [thousands] of marijuana-related convictions. For too long, the failed drug war has locked up millions of nonviolent offenders at an incredible cost, disproportionately affecting Americans of colors." Booker in the past has been a proud supporter of marijuana legislation, authoring the book "Marijuana Justice Act."

This law passing is following last month's announcement by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who stated that he wants to end the relaxing of policy for recreational use without federal involvement.

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Indie Lens Pop-Up Presents:

Stanley Nelson's "Tell Them We Are Rising:" The Stories of Black Colleges and Universities

Jake Cole, Office of Service Learning
FOR THE ARGO

Indie Lens Pop-Up, presented by ITVS, Independent Lens and the Office of Service Learning, are excited to present "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities," which explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played over the course of 150 years in American history, culture and identity. The film reveals the rich history of HBCUs and the power of higher education to transform lives and advance civil rights and equality in the face of injustice. The latest film from America's foremost film chronicler of the African-American experience, director Stanley Nelson (Black Panthers, Freedom Riders), "Tell Them We Are Rising" brings to life the powerful story of the rise, influence and evolution of HBCUs. Co-directed and co-produced by Marco Williams, the film premieres on Independent Lens on Monday, Feb. 19 from 9:00-10:30 p.m. ET.

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries — and a path of promise toward the American dream — HBCUs have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field while remaining unapologetically Black for more than 150 years. These institutions have nurtured some of the most influential Americans of our time, from Booker T. Washington to Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois to Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison to Oprah Winfrey, Alice Walker to Spike Lee to Common.

In addition to the broadcast, "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities" is the centerpiece of a yearlong multi-platform effort called "HBCU Rising." Featuring national partnerships including The Black College Fund, Color of Change, Akila Worksongs, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., United Negro College Fund, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Blackout for Human Rights, and The Campaign for Black Male Achievement, "HBCU Rising" will examine and celebrate the legacy of HBCUs. For more information, visit HBCURising.com for exclusive events, StoryCorps audio stories, video shorts, an HBCU campus tour and a crowdsourced HBCU Digital Yearbook.

WHAT: FREE preview screening of "Tell Them We Are Rising" followed by a community discussion featuring HBCU alumni.

WHO: Jodie Davis, Bonner Leader, Office of Service-Learning

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: Stockton University Campus Center, 101 Vera King Farris Dr, Galloway, NJ 08205

RSVP: stockton.edu/servicelearning (609) 652-4256

For more information, visit: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/tell-them-we-are-rising/>

About the Filmmakers

Stanley Nelson (Director/Writer/Producer) has been acknowledged as one of the preeminent documentary filmmakers of our time. He has directed and produced over 12 documentary features including "Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution," "Freedom Summer," "Freedom Riders, Jonestown: The Life and Death of People's Temple" and "The Murder of Emmett Till." Nelson has won every major award in broadcasting. In 2016, he was honored with a Lifetime Peabody Award, a Lifetime Emmy Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association. He is a 2014 National Humanities Medalist, multiple-time Emmy Award winner, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He holds a BFA from City College of New York and Honorary Doctorates from Duke University and Haverford College. He has taught documentary film production at Howard University, Brooklyn College, and the University of California Berkeley and has guest lectured at universities and film schools around the world.

Nelson is co-founder of Firelight Media, a nonprofit production company dedicated to using historical film to advance contemporary social

justice causes, and to mentoring, inspiring and training a new generation of diverse young filmmakers committed to advancing underrepresented stories.

Marco Williams (Co-Director/Co-Producer) is a filmmaker and a film educator. He is an Arts Professor at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Undergraduate Department of Film and Television. His directing credits include "The Black Fives," "The Undocumented," "Inside the New Black Panthers," "Banished," "Freedom Summer," "I Sit Where I Want: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education," "MLK Boulevard: The Concrete Dream," "Two Towns of Jasper," "Making Peace: Rebuilding our Communities," "The Spiritual Deficit," "The American Dream," "In Search of Our Fathers," and "From Harlem to Harvard." His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a George Foster Peabody Award, the Alfred I duPont Silver Baton, the Pan African Film Festival Outstanding Documentary Award, the Full Frame Documentary Festival Spectrum Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists First Place Salute to Excellence.

Marcia Smith (Writer) served as president of Firelight Media for most of its first decade. During her tenure, Firelight produced over 18 hours of film for national broadcast on PBS and garnered every major award in television, including multiple Primetime Emmy, Peabody, Sundance, duPont, and International Documentary Association (IDA) awards. She has written numerous films for PBS including "Wounded Knee," "Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple," "Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind," "The Murder of Emmett Till" for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, and "Beyond Brown and Running: The Campaign for City Council" for WNET. She has also written a documentary on OJ Simpson for HBO Sports, and the acclaimed book "Black America: A Journey in Photographs," published by Thunder Bay Press. She received the award for Best Nonfiction Writing from the Writers Guild of America and a Prime Time Emmy nomination for "Emmett Till."

About Indie Lens Pop-Up

Indie Lens Pop-Up is a neighborhood series that brings people together for film screenings and community-driven conversations. Featuring documentaries seen on PBS's Independent Lens, Indie Lens Pop-Up draws local residents, leaders and organizations together to discuss what matters most, from newsworthy topics to family and relationships. Make friends, share stories and join the conversation. Can't attend in person? Find Independent Lens on Facebook for information on our online Pop-Up events.

About Independent Lens

Independent Lens is an Emmy award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 PM. The acclaimed series, with Lois Vossen as executive producer, features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding from PBS, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens. Join the conversation: facebook.com/independentlens and on Twitter @IndependentLens.

Essential Listening

Jackson Glassey
ARGO STAFF WRITER

This section highlights relatively recent releases in music that, in this writer's ever-so-humble opinion, one should hear...

A+: Stop reading this edition of the Argo and buy it. Go. Scoot.

A: No doubt one of the year's best. Will work its way into my regular musical digest.

A-: A great record and well-worth your time.

B+: Very enjoyable, but teeters just enough into unpalatable territory to prevent an across-the-board recommendation.

Johnny Jewel: "Digital Rain" (Italians Do It Better)

One of my favorite record labels currently running, Italians Do It Better have yet to drop something that has flat-out disappointed me. Their first release of 2018, "Digital Rain," penned by Johnny Jewel (the head honcho of the imprint), has done little to convince me that they will ever put out anything lackluster. Exactly as the title suggests, it's a collection of moody, electronically driven tracks that evoke themes of rain and water, making it something I'd recommend to just about anyone looking for something atmospheric... doubly so if you worship at the altar of synthesizers. **A-**

Dave East: "Paranoia 2" (Def Jam / Mass Appeal / From the Dirt)

Easily Philadelphia's flagship emcee at the moment, Dave East brings a no-frills brand of bars which beg the perfect amount of attention from the listener-- not so esoteric that you feel alienated, but not so humdrum that you feel like you're listening to nothing. As with almost all semi-to-major commercial hip hop records, there are prominent feature spots, but, comparatively speaking, they're kept to a minimum (T.I. snaps on track nine, "Annoying"). If not "P2," I demand that you at least pay heed to 2017's #EASTMIX of "Free Smoke," instantly searchable on YouTube. **B+**

Godflesh: "Post Self" (Avalanche)

I know there are lots of music fans out there who live and die by the industrial genre, a style I've always been extremely hit-or-miss with. When the rare mood strikes, I usually reach for OLD-school stuff like Throbbing Gristle. But, after hearing much buzz over the latest LP from Birmingham metalmachinemusic veterans Godflesh, I succumbed to my inner mall goth and took "Post Self" for a spin... I don't understand how such brutal compositions can be so catchy. If you opt to give this one a shot, be warned that your head will involuntarily bob along to every grinding, clanking beat and riff for 46 minutes. Oh, and it was recorded at Abbey Road Studios! **A-**

Post-Hardcore Pack Uses Music to Empower and Educate

Kat H. Wentzell
ARGO STAFF WRITER



(Photo courtesy of Kat H. Wentzell)

Phinehas is a self-produced Christian metalcore band from La Mirada, California that formed in early 2001. None of the founding members are in the band today, but the present members work tirelessly to keep the torch burning. With the immense success of their latest record, "Dark Flag," fans could say they're doing a pretty good job.

Modern-day Phinehas consists of four phenomenal musicians: vocalist Sean McCulloch, guitarist Daniel Gailey, bassist Bryce Kelley, and drummer Isaiah Perez. McCulloch joined the band in 2007, Kelley in 2012, and Gailey in 2014. Perez was just recently inducted into the band this year.

Phinehas' music is closely akin to 2005-ish metalcore, with guitar-heavy melodies and technical riffs. There is also an interesting, reminiscent flavor of 80s hair metal in Phinehas' music, given the members' passions for bands like Van Halen and Guns 'N Roses. "I think just being a guitar-driven band nowadays may come off as flashy, but our main concern is just writing good songs," said McCulloch. "We want our legacy to be something more than 'Oh did you hear that one breakdown, dude? There was that crazy 808 drop, man.'"

As previously mentioned, the band's most recent album, "Dark Flag," dropped November 17th, and has since garnered the attention of many big-name publications such as Alternative Press and New Noise. The album even has a 4.5/5 star rating on iTunes.

The purpose of the record is to teach and invoke thought. "Dark Flag" was inspired by the reign of the Kim dynasty in North Korea, the inhumane things it has done to its people, and how nothing has been done about it. The album is not a political statement, but a manifestation of the band's idea that it is important to become more informed and to help others. "We wanted to shed light to make people realize and understand that there are some horrible things going on [in the world] right now that almost sound sci-fi," said McCulloch. "So that's what the record is about. I don't know why it was put in my heart, or why it tugged at me, but sometimes things like that happen in life and you know you need to do something."

Something equally as important as compassion to Phinehas is family. The boys' family members are all incredibly supportive of their musical endeavors. "My Mom loves [Phinehas]," said Kelley. "She lives in Iowa and she drives all around the country [just] to come to shows. She's driven 5-6 hours to come see us before. My Dad is a fan too; he only wears Phinehas shirts. He was there the whole time when we tracked 'Till the End,' about 10 feet away playing Wii Bowling. In the endnotes of the album, it says: 'Tracked at Steve's Wii Palace.' Life is a lot easier when you have family at home that supports you."

Like family, fans are also near and dear to Phinehas' heart. Despite their vast success, the members of Phinehas remain grounded and strive to have a close, open-arms relationship with their fans. "We want to radiate positivity," said Gailey. "We want to let our fans know that they are loved, and that if they do have serious questions, we are always available to talk about them. We try to be available, and we want to let people know that we're just normal dudes that want to spread a positive message."

Now that the tour with Like Moths to Flames, Fit for a King, and In Hearts Wake is over, Phinehas has a little time to relax. McCulloch will be taking the beginning half of the new year to become a father. Kelley, Perez, and Gailey will also have free time to spend with their families, but Gailey assures fans that the break will not last very long. "We're already working on the next record a little," he said. "We also have a lot of really exciting tours coming up. The biggest things we will have ever done are yet to come, so stay tuned."

Phinehas can be found on Instagram and Twitter @phinehasband.

Creative Highlight

Black and White Series: Part Two

Sara Brown
ARGO STAFF WRITER



June 23rd, 2017

Sara Brown
ARGO STAFF WRITER

It was just about sunset as I made it to the top of that random Missouri hilltop, surrounded by cornfields and other emptiness. My cousin Alex had just gotten officially married a few hours prior in the country barn across the winding country road which seemed so small from this knoll I declared mine. I could just barely hear the bass beat of the music they have to play at weddings so that both the 8 year old niece with a sweet tooth and the grandmother with the cane can both sing along.

I kicked off my painful, stiff heels and let my ringlets of curls come bursting out of my hair tie and into the flow of the wind as I imagined myself, being only 6 months younger than Alex, ever getting married. I recalled Aunt Sharon plopping herself down next to me as I watched everyone dance and finished off a dirty Shirley. She rambled on about how every girl dreams of her wedding and how perfect everything was and what a beautiful bride Alex was and how she wonders if she'll have kids right away and what kind of cook she is and how happy her grandmother looks, how proud. Yes, to be proud of your granddaughter for saying two words and permanently holding herself back at 21. I was thinking of some other ways to make your grandmama proud, like mowing the lawn or helping her jar some tomatoes; squeezing into a dress didn't cross my mind.

Aunt Sharon didn't ask me what I had in mind, and what a relief. All I would have been able to say was that I saw that big old hill surrounded by corn when we pulled into the stone and dirt parking lot and I had every intention of running to the top of it as soon as the sappy slow songs started resounding off the barn walls.

And there I stood, having had walked down a stretch of that old Missouri road, jumped over the barbed-wire fence, and pushed my way through stubborn ears of corn, all in a black dress with flowers and muddy heels, to see that world from a further away perspective—where I usually see it. It will likely come as no surprise to my relatives that that world will never be for me. I never, not once, dreamt of what my future wedding would be like; I never daydreamed of what my willing and able husband would look like. Truth is, I was in love with the simple way the wind was blowing much more than I've ever been with any boy. I got more butterflies from having to quickly hop that barbed-wire fence with a few drinks in me as I prayed no farmers would drive by more than from any kiss. More happiness from running down that road, watching my feet land on the fresh, green grass and the ends of my dress flying in every direction and waving at the neighborly cows than when one of the groomsmen smiled my way during the ceremony.

And standing on top of that hill, I knew that's where I belonged—seeing that world from a distance, and being okay with that.

Elvis Depressedly at the Theater of the Living Arts

Kat H. Wentzell
ARGO STAFF WRITER



Creative Highlight

Plasticity

Tyler Bell

ARGO STAFF WRITER

Tell me everything that happened!

Alright, Alright, I'll never forget when I first met her. It was one of the last days of summer; autumn's bitter sweet embrace was starting to set in. I was going to Macy's to pick up a sweatshirt. I was never a fan of the fall. Once I got off the bus I started taking in the scenery. The bright lights, endless amounts of people, and the culture. Los Angeles is truly beautiful right?

Yeah, sure, can you please continue with the story!

Of course, I finally made it to the Macy's in Culver City, and suddenly someone caught my eye. She was just looking out the window, and I could feel this intensity emanating from her soul. At first, I thought I should just shrug it off, because she was probably just another one of the many beautiful women that inhabit the city. And I thought she wouldn't waste her time on me. But fate had a different story to tell; after a couple of seconds our eyes met, and I knew she was meant for me. Her flawless face, immaculate posture, and slim figure. She could have been a model, even if she is kind of generic looking. I'm not a religious man, but I felt that she was put in that spot just for me, and me alone!

Sorry to interrupt but what's her name again?

Diana, its Diana... We started talking after I walked up to her; there aren't a lot of other times in my life I've been so nervous to talk to somebody, but Diana was something else. Once, I gathered up the courage to utter a hello her angelic voice embraced me. My anxiety immediately plateaued. I asked about her past, family, and the school she went to. She went on about her mother, and how she feared her young daughter living in the big city. Diana was originally from Aeon, Idaho; it's some random suburb outside of Omaha. She had three sisters that were jealous, because she got into Stanford University. She wanted to practice law. Diana was obsessed with courtroom dramas. Diana loved the men and women in power suits defending people in the name of justice. She saw it as honorable profession in a society that has been led astray.

What else happened that night? Did you guys plan on meeting again? And how long ago was this?

Well we had been chatting for a considerable amount of time; we didn't even notice that we had been talking for three hours at that point. Diana's boss was starting to get angry about taking up all of her time. Also, other customers keep trying to get her attention, but they knew better than to come between us. This was three months ago, I believe. Eventually we parted ways after I got your number, she told me that she was dying to quit her job at Macy's. I told her she should tomorrow, and we would drive to my place together.

Wow, you guys were moving fast huh. Did she agree to this? Why wasn't she at Stanford? Was the age difference weird for her?

Of course, she consented to it, since it was her idea in the first place! Love transcends time and space, we all embrace it in different ways and there is no universal way to achieve it. And every fiber in our collective being knew this was the right thing to do. If you knew her like I did you wouldn't even, ask such an insipid question.

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to offend you, but what about the age difference? And why wasn't she at Stanford when you met?

I must admit that having about fifteen years on her was a little weird at first, but any inhibition was melted way when I gazed into her vacant eyes. Diana was pretty mature for her age, she read Kerouac, listened to Progressive Jazz, and helped me with my taxes. She wasn't some dizzy frat girl that wanted to date an older man. The reason why Diana wasn't at Stanford was that she was taking the semester off to "find herself." Like everyone around that age does, it's not that odd.

I've never said it was odd. Alright, what happened when you came back the next day?

Huh, I could have sworn you did. Nevertheless, I took my Ford Focus to the Macy's, and the traffic in Williamsburg's is always horrible around six. But when I got there, I saw Diana looking out the window again, but this time she wasn't going to stay in that poorly priced prison anymore! It was a pretty romantic moment, if I do say so myself. I picked Diana up and we walked out together. Her boss was freaking out the entire time. But he had no power over us, so went to my focus and made it back to my apartment, and our relationship bloomed from there.

Okay, what have you guys done together in the last three months?

Right, all we really did was spend a lot of time together, for the most part. I mean, I spent all the free time I could on her. We would go out to all the local eateries, Diana had an odd fixation with overpriced craft burgers and local beers. We would spend Friday night's either watching Netflix or going to the theaters. We watched Magnolia, Synecdoche, New York, and There Will Be Blood. I didn't really understand or like those movies, but if Diana likes them I'll watch them a thousand times over.

You mentioned earlier that you went to San Francisco? Tell me about that?

Yes, that was an amazing trip. Have you ever been?

Yeah, once but tell me your story!

Fair enough, we took a long drive to San Francisco, and Diana's paranoid mother kept calling to make sure she was safe the whole time. Her mother never liked me, but maybe her trepidation towards me was justified. And when we got there we kept making fun of all those millennial douchebags. They infest that town, I can't stand their smug attitudes. If I could, I would wipe them out. Eventually, we stood on top of Willis tower at sunset staring at the Golden Gate Bridge. It was a marvelous sight to behold. It's one of those events you can only see once in a lifetime. You know?

Yes, I do. Why did the relationship stop?

Great question, so you really want to open Pandora's Box, huh?

Please answer the question?

Do you know the Second Law of Thermodynamics?

Yes, but how is that relevant?

I'll explain it to you my friend. You see, the Second Law of Thermodynamics shows us how there's a finite amount of heat in the universe. Whenever we convert potential energy to kinetic energy we contribute to disorder. Eventually, the universe will experience heat death and all things will reach perfect entropy.

So? What's the connection?

Think of love as heat, do you get it now? Whenever we create love or take part in it we ultimately contribute to its extinction. A relationship is a closed system, and that entropy, or loss of love is axiomatic. You can't stop it from happening, you can only watch the disorder take over and destroy all love.

What's destroying love?

No, you don't understand it do you. Cold doesn't exist in physics, there's only heat and the absence of heat. Same with love, there's no alternative just the absence. And just like heat, love will eventually reach a point of capitulation, and it will reach perfect entropy.

What happened?

Our relationship expired, you know? We eventually got sick of each other's presence; the faded look in her eyes which at one point I found enduring, now left me wretched retching on all fours! Her body which used to smell wonderful, now reeks of burnt cocaine. Diana's beauty began to decay before my very eyes. This abhorrent betrayal left me with a sweet and bitter taste that I couldn't stomach anymore!

Enough! Give me the details! Now!

Alright, calm down, the night is still young, and this harrowing tale has a happy ending. We had company over, some old friends from my college days, and I was regaling all of them with our adventures. But Diana didn't respond to anything I said. "Hey dear, tell our friends about the trip to Santa Monica." And I got no response. This would go on for the rest of the night. Eventually I lost it, and I said to her, "Unfortunately, for you my dear, I'll just rip you apart limb by limb until I'm finally finished with you! I was wrong! You're just like all other women in this city! It's a good thing they have plenty of others just like you at the JC Penny down the street!"

Creative Highlight

The Beginning

Hoc Ly
FOR THE ARGO

Imagine a wise, old tree who has done everything from seed to growth to making seed, it's at the end of it's life and it wants to consider death.

Death comes saying, "You are Done Wise Elder, Do You Really Wish To Die?"

ElderTree: "Yes, I am Old, Tired, Have Nothing Left to Give. And I Believe my Spiritual Path is Done. I Am at Last Nothing."

Death: "I would Gladly End Your Suffering For it is My Job, but did you consider the younger saplings you could impart loving wisdom to? What of the kind soul who has no home to live under but that of the love of a wise elder tree. What of the rich nutrients you provide to Great Mother Earth and energy to Eternal Mother Universe?"

A slight happiness encumbers our **tree friend:** "Your point is?"

Death: "The great rivers pass by without care and recognition and purpose. They simply flow loving the fishes and spirits and trees they nurture. Also when there journey is "done," they become part of the greater ocean only to become part of the greater rivers."

Tree: "Point!"

Death: "Point is life goes on. The oceans are always there because they will always be needed. We exist to heal and shine light in the dark to lost souls like lighthouses to sailors and ships. Even when there are no more sailing ships, we must remain vigilant so that some impulsive, young sailors will always be safe because lighthouse light workers are there."

"Wise" tree: "I wish to live for I have purpose again."

Death: "You always have purpose. You are unchanging! I am leaving now, I have a world to cleanse. See you soon."

At that parting **Death** left, **Eldertree** lived on for **Eons** till by the will of **GreatThunderSpirit** that he finally rested.

A Repertoire of Art

Jean M. Hodges
ARGO STAFF WRITER

"Happy Little Demon Girl"



"A Taste of Summer"



And So I Howl

Anthony Cornatzer
ARGO STAFF WRITER

Oh darling,
Let me howl
At this moon-
This bright,
New moon-
And see what
Reverberations
And echoes
I hear of change
That's coming,
Change that's already here.

I tread lightly
On the snow,
Finding joy
Even in my foot falls.
I hold a beer
In hand,
And in answer
To my yearning,
The wind blows softly
Through the bare trees,
Across the snow,
And through my face
And grizzled,
And slightly frosted beard.

And so darling,
In reply
I howled...
Not out of vanity
Or conceit
That it was shining
On or for me,
But that it was
Shining to me
For me
To see.

And oh darling,
I howled-
And so
I howl.

Ask The Argo: Stockton University's Advice Column

Alexandra Mussman
ARGO STAFF WRITER

Dear Argo,

I am currently having a really hard time letting go. My ex and I broke up a month ago, but I still find myself very sad that our relationship ended. We had dated for almost one year, and I really miss him. I know there is no way to go back to that relationship, so do you have any tips on how to get over an ex?

Sincerely,
Sad Senior

Dear Sad Senior,

First of all, I empathize with you, I feel you, and I mourn with you. Breakups are always so hard, and there is no "right" way or "easy" way to get through them. Unfortunately, the best advice I can give you is that in time, this too shall pass. While time does heal, and you shouldn't expect to just snap your fingers and get through this, there are some helpful tips to maintain your self-care.

First, try and surround yourself with love and support. Friends, family, and fun are the best ways to process your feelings and move forward. Surrounding yourself with positivity is the best way to keep afloat.

While this might be difficult, allow yourself to have a pity party, but try not to be alone for days at a time. Although it's hard, getting back out in the world is the best way to navigate your life as a single, independent queen!

Second, try your best to eliminate immediate triggers. Remove pictures on your wall that remind you of your ex, remove them from social media, and unfriend them to eliminate the possibility to facebook stalk them at 3am when you're drunk and sad. This is important because don't let bad choices become bad habits! How can you move on when all you see is them?! Regardless what anyone says, this is for YOUR self care and YOUR sanity. It's time to think about your happiness.

Third, and this will take time, but make new memories. In surrounding yourself with support and a fresh start, you allow new memories to take the place of more painful ones. Trust me, by replacing the connotation of Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" to your ex lover, and instead with your best friends, it becomes easier to move on.

While nothing can bring your relationship back, and in time, the pain will subside, try allowing yourself to be sad, but not stay sad. You are in control of your own happiness, act like it!

Hope this helps!

Sincerely,
Argo

Letter to the Editor: SJ's Water is on the Decline

Dora Puglio
FOR THE ARGO

To the Editor,

As someone who is passionate about the ecosystem, in particular the Pine Barrens, it saddens me to say that the water quality in New Jersey has been on a rapid decline recently. Storm runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution due to the high amount of toxins it carries, resulting in poor water quality throughout the state of New Jersey.

Storm runoff is water from rain or melted snow which cannot be absorbed into the ground, thus causing water and pollutants such as oil, pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste and salt to be transported directly to the nearest storm drain or body of water without any proper treatment.

This is a highly concerning issue due to the negative impacts it can have on both human health and the environment. Infectious diseases can be present in substandard water quality conditions, which will cause health complications to both humans and wildlife.

Since storm runoff is also a result of washing chemicals down our driveways and into the roads. What we can do is to make sure only water enters our storm drains. We should keep our vehicles well maintained and free of any leaks or spills. If there is a spill, we should quickly clean it.

Some other initiatives we can take include: 1. Cleaning up after our pets to make sure pet waste isn't being disposed untreated at the nearest water source, 2. Avoiding overuse of lawn and weed chemicals. I suggest considering a rain barrel system for roof runoff, and 3. Using a hazardous waste disposal company.

Hazardous waste companies dispose of the highly toxic chemicals for you to ensure that they are treated properly and that they do not end up in our environment, causing hazards to animal and or human health.

Storm runoff is an urgent issue that needs immediate attention. Please visit epa.gov for more information and for resources to help guide you towards making clean and efficient impacts on our water quality.

Sincerely,
Dora Marie Puglia

Minimalism vs. Consumerism

Harlee York
ARGO STAFF WRITER

What a lot of people in today's society do not realize is how detrimental their consuming habits are to their health and overall happiness. Many people possess hoarder-like qualities and they are unaware of how it could be negatively impacting their lives. The average person is not a hoarder like the ones on TV that can barely step foot in their house safely, but there are those who possess tons and tons of unnecessary items in their homes which add unnecessary clutter to their thoughts and mental space.

Our possessions carry greater significance in our lives than we normally give them. It seems as if things enter our homes without us being aware of or really thinking about them. It is important for us to actively think about items we buy and introduce to ourselves. Material objects can overwhelm our space physically and translate to our mental well-being. Just like these objects clutter our homes, these objects can clutter our thoughts, too. The more objects you possess, the more you always have to worry about. Just like when you have a giant stack of assignments to finish versus just a few.

Something else important to consider is whether or not your possessions make you happy or bring you joy. Just like the decisions you

make, the people in your life, etc. can bring you positive or negative energy and thoughts, objects can emit similar auras. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize and remove the things that bring you stress, negativity, guilt, etc.

Everyone has received those gifts from relatives or friends that you just hate, but you keep them since they are from someone you love. It may be difficult, but it is okay to get rid of them by either donating, returning, exchanging or selling them. The people who truly love you just want you to be happy and they would much rather you have something that brings you joy rather than living with guilt. Ridging yourself of items that either burden you with negativity or items that do not really bring you any kind of happiness or utility will help clear your physical and mental space. This will leave you will more room for inspiration, productivity and rejuvenation.

Keeping only things that make you happy also allows you to focus on only those few things, leading you towards cherishing and appreciating what they do for you and your well-being. Starting off with your material objects will open the door to appreciation and happiness throughout other facets of your life.

The Beautiful Irony Behind LCD Soundsystem's First Grammy

Dan Tidcombe

FOR THE ARGO

Last Sunday night's Grammys stirred up lots of talk, with the news cycle focusing on the politically and socially charged performances, the big winners, and the big losers. Many people focused on the outrage over certain artists or albums being snubbed, or how the awards show in general has become a mockery of itself. However, one story slipped under the radar, mostly due to it occurring before the cameras started rolling in New York. Longtime indie and electronic mainstay LCD Soundsystem took home their award from the Recording Academy, winning "Best Dance Recording" for their song "tonite".

Released as a single off the Brooklyn group's fourth album *American Dream*, "tonite" marks the first award in LCD Soundsystem's 17 year career. The band is the brainchild of Princeton Junction, NJ native James Murphy, who has been working the music scene in New York since the early 90's, finding gigs as a drummer, DJ, and producer before taking the helm of his own band with the debut single "Losing My Edge" in 2001. Following that came a string of successful albums in 2005, 2007, and 2010, before finally netting the seemingly coveted golden Gramophone for their 2017 efforts. While not able to net the "Alternative Album of the Year" (another article for another time), "tonite" being their first and so far only Grammy is hilarious in one of the most ironic ways, as they have managed to capture the award with the anti-hit.

Many of James Murphy's songs deal with topics not usually seen in modern pop music, such as anxiety, growing old, feeling uncool and out of touch, and sometimes just being a sad loser. Their debut single, "Losing My Edge" is a song about Murphy feeling out of touch and irrelevant with the new music scene that he was once a part of. Their most critically acclaimed song, often cited as their best work, "All My Friends", is a song about growing old and growing apart from the friends in your life, while the seemingly bubbly and bouncy "I Can Change" deals with changing yourself to save a toxic relationship. However, with "tonite", Murphy takes things in a different direction, instead focusing LCD's sense of irony and degradation on the state of music itself.

On the surface the song sounds like any other piece you would expect to win "Best Dance Song", a danceable beat, bouncing synth-line, and Daft Punk-esque backing vocals emphasizing words and phrases throughout the song. However, the lyrics written by Murphy portray a very different story. The opening line of the song states "Everyone is singing the same song, it goes tonite (tonite, tonite, tonite...)", before stating that Murphy "never realized all these artists thought so much about dying."

The song explains that it (the mystery song) is ruling the airwaves, "or what remains of the airwaves," and alludes to "market psychology," implying that these songs about "tonite (tonite, tonite)" are meticulously

crafted to have the biggest mass appeal. Murphy then says that the hits on the radio are all saying the same things about how the people in the song only have "tonite", despite their everyday lives dragging on regardless of what happens that night. The next verse highlights further absurdity in these mass produced pop songs, as Murphy states that everyone feels the same, except for one person who "knows who you are" because the song is a love song to them.

Finally, Murphy lashes out one last time at the state of pop music, stating that as you get older, "there's improvements unless you're such a winner that the future's a nightmare," meaning that all of the people out partying and having the time of their lives now and "winning" at life will have nothing left later in life. Aside from a job at celebrities selling "limited edition shoes", the critiques on music seem to end here. Songs that focus on this type of material don't usually get too much traction these days, but the song managed to pull it off well enough that it became a relatively popular song after its release in mid-August of last year. Popular enough to win a Grammy, it turns out. The most beautiful part of the whole scenario is the field in which "tonite" was placed, including numerous offenders of what Murphy talks about in his lyrics. Most notable of these offenders include past LCD collaborator Damon Albarn on Gorillaz's "Andromeda", Song of the Year Nominee "Issues" by Julia Michaels, the inescapable "Despacito" (featuring past serial offender Justin Bieber), and Bruno Mars with "24K Magic" and "That's What I Like", winners of both Record and Song of the Year respectively. These songs leading the pack in what the Academy classifies as the "General" section falls in line with their trends towards picking the more pop-like, radio friendly, "market psychology" songs as opposed to more artfully produced ones (see Album of the Year in 2016, 2017, and 2018, just for starters).

In addition to the irony of the field in which "tonite wins", there also lies humor in the category it won in as well. LCD Soundsystem will now share a category in the record books with such names as Justin Timberlake, The Chainsmokers, and Britney Spears for "Best Dance Song". Ironically, "tonite" manages to satirize all of the songs by these artists, and now stands in the record books with the songs it's attacking.

And therein lies the final bit of irony: The Recording Academy is so out of touch that it rewarded and gave a spotlight to a song that attacks everything that the Grammys stand for. For years now the Grammys have been attacked for being too pop oriented and passing over the more artfully crafted pieces of music out there, and instead choosing the same old tried and true, formulaic songs, usually ones that peak high on the Billboard charts in America. And when the Academy finally gives an award to a more niche group, to a song that did relatively poorly in the charts (compared to the other nominees), they inadvertently have a glaring attack piece in their record books for the rest of their existence. And that's the funniest part of it all.

My Thoughts on Laci Green

Mary McQuarrie

ARGO STAFF WRITER

Laci Green is a Youtuber who has been making sex positive videos for years. She has gained a lot of success, working directly with MTV and other big outlets. She was an enormous influence on how I thought about sex, sexuality, and gender identity. She was a young adult who was raised Mormon and had broken away from what she described as harmful stigma around sexuality that her church had taught her.

I devoured her videos growing up and into myself. She offered sexual information which had been so scarce for so long. As time moved on the topics she would cover broadened. It became less about straight sexual information and more feminist ideas and content. This was also a welcome change for me as I grew up and was exploring these ideas and nuances. Green also provided a sex positive, feminism friendly perspective, that while I sometimes disagreed with was mostly all in line with what I believe is social justice driven.

A Social Justice Warrior is a term often used, with an unflattering connotation, by anti-feminists. Anti-feminist ideology often comes from feeling that feminism has gone too far and is complicating issues that have already been taken care of or is exaggerating the harmfulness of today's society.

Full disclosure, I'm a feminist, have been for a long time. My explanation of anti-feminism is biased and limited, the movement personally offends my sensibilities and the sensibilities of those closest to me. That is actually exactly the point that Green has been making lately that has a

lot of people taking pause. She is endorsing cross ideology conversation, arguing that I should be able to give a more fair and comprehensive definition of the other side. She's delving into the anti-feminist view camp and trying to sort out where they are coming from and if they make good points. She's trying to open her mind and identify toxic culture in the ideology of social justice that she has taken to heart, to welcome over viewpoints. That can't be wrong can it?

Well, it's complicated. Green has been met with criticism for trying to broaden her horizon because some see it has a privileged act. They point out that she's a white cis-gender woman who has less to lose by sharing her platform with people who believe strictly in the gender binary structure. Some see this as Green going back on her promise to protect and advocate for transgender and gender nonconforming people. By offering her sizable platform to people who believe the opposite of everything she has stood for has changed the conversation, but at the cost of her channel being a safe place for transgender and gender nonconforming viewers.

I'm not sure where I stand on this, because I enjoy the more balanced presentation of ideas, I feel I am learning from it and humanizing the anti-community. I don't want to exchange one humanization for another dehumanization of persecuted people in my community. I wonder if there is a middle ground that won't feel as exclusionary to anyone, but I may be just reaching for idealism again. I don't want my viewpoints to limit me, but I don't want to flippantly exercise my cis privilege. By ignoring the points brought up in these open dialog sessions that question the very validity of my friend's existence, is that progressive or grossly overindulgent?

Kosher Kush

Maddie Martorano
ARGO STAFF WRITER

Throughout my time at Stockton, I've noticed that I seem to write a majority of my research papers, assignments/ projects and articles on one of two things, marijuana legalization and Jewish Studies. I know a lot about both, so it makes sense to write what you know, right? I am working towards achieving minors in both Jewish Studies and Political Science, therefore, many of my assignments offer themselves nicely to the two topics I typically write about. As I go deeper into both minors, I find myself considering a lot of different aspects of each. Recently, I have been doing a lot of research on the Kosher diet.

When food is defined as, kosher, it very simply means that there are no ingredients that have come from non-kosher animals. In short, kosher meat has to come from an animal that has split hooves and chews it's cud; such as, cows, sheep and goats. When one of these animals is slaughtered for consumption, it must be slaughtered with precision by someone that has been trained in this ritualistic way of killing. The meat must also have any trace of blood removed. Dairy and kosher meat are not to be mixed. The dairy product must also come from a kosher animals. Foods that do not fall under neither the kosher meat or dairy categories are referred to as pareve. These types of food include, fruits, vegetables, grains, and most juices.

Learning about the complexities of the kosher diet got me thinking about the specifics. Is alcohol kosher? What about tea? What about coffee?

While doing research to find answers to these questions, I came across an article about the plan to legalize marijuana in New Jersey in the next year. If this is true or not, I don't know, however, this got me thinking. Could marijuana be kosher? I began to look into this.

I found that there is in fact kosher marijuana products and the reason being, Israel just decriminalized marijuana and have been investing money into the research of medical marijuana. I read an interview with a rabbi who stated, "marijuana isn't not kosher" (Herb Magazine). Marijuana, in it's most pure form, is a plant, allowing itself to fall under the same category as fruits and vegetables. However, though marijuana is a plant, often times consumers are not getting marijuana that is, "officially kosher" certified. This is due to the equipment used to process the plant, the packaging materials, and any additives (in terms of making edible marijuana products).

With Israel becoming a recent advocate for medicinal marijuana, there have been a number of companies, mainly in Canada, making sure that their marijuana products are kosher. The Hydropothecary Corporation, a licensed distributor of cannabis in Canada, was the first company to do this, right before Rosh Hashanah. The Hydropothecary Corporation received the first Canadian Kosher certification from Rabbi Levy Teitlebaum, who is the director of Ottawa Vaad HaKashrut. Every product coming from The Hydropothecary Company will be packaged with a kosher certified stamp. This is a big step in the marijuana industry. It is likely that kosher marijuana will be more in demand in the months to come with Israel decriminalizing it.

Raising the Bar: A Reflection on a Broadway Master Class

Anthony Cornatzer
ARGO STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, we need it to be proven to us and we must be reminded that our loftiest dreams and ambitions are more within our reach than we tend to realize. I was able to experience this reminder while attending a Broadway master class held a few months back on Sept. 16, 2017 here at Stockton University with Krysta Rodriguez and Alexander Sage Oyen. Having been reached out to by Stockton's Assistant Professor of Theatre, David Reiser, both Rodriguez and Oyen came to Stockton to share their insight and experiences within the professional world of theatre.

Rodriguez described in great detail her early beginnings and experiences, which ultimately led to her landing on Broadway. She moved to New York from California and, while still attending college at New York University, auditioned for the Beach Boys themed jukebox musical "Good Vibrations," the show that would become her Broadway debut in which she performed alongside David Reiser in the original cast. She also discussed how she auditioned for and ultimately got casted into the ensembles for both of the original productions of "In the Heights" and "Spring Awakening" on the same day. Rodriguez detailed her misadventures from the day which included taking a bag to the face on the subway. She described how it not only messed up her make-up, but also busted up her face pretty badly.

In dealing with all of this, she ended up not only being late for her "Spring Awakening" audition, but also had to leave early before her call back to make the other audition for "In the Heights." Even after all of that, she still was casted in the ensemble for both shows. In the following years, Rodriguez described how following her diagnosis and undergoing treatment for breast cancer, she was offered to play the role of Illse in the recent revival and Deaf West production of "Spring Awakening." And so, coming as no surprise in considering her already perseverant attitude and work ethic, Rodriguez took on the role in midst of treatment and even learned sign language while in the hospital.

Alexander Sage Oyen shared some of his own insights and experiences as a singer-songwriter and musical theatre man. Specifically, he

described how he became a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and worked under Stephen Schwartz, who became his mentor. He also shared some of his own work, including an excerpt from his musical "Outlaws" with the song "Gods Among Men." Oyen also jammed out quite a bit with Rodriguez in playing, of course, "Don't Do Sadness/Blue Wind" from "Spring Awakening," as well as with professor Reiser later tagging in that evening for the college's weekend Faculty/Alumni concert with all three performing excerpts from Reiser's own show he wrote the book, music and lyrics for, "Joni on the Ceiling."

Oyen and Rodriguez also shared a great deal of insight on the entertainment industry at large and took questions from students, which included issues relating to being artists of color. Rodriguez actually related how, with her Latino ethnicity and background, she was asked to change her name in the industry. To follow this up, she made an excellent point in saying that, as today's artists and next generation, we're the most self-generating. Her advice was that if we want to address these issues of discrimination and lack of representation, we have to take it upon ourselves to make our disapproval and desire for change known to today's higher-ups and producers.

Although this master class took place quite some months in the past, it nevertheless still resonates with me a great deal of inspiration. Not only did it give me a new sense of reaffirmation as a theatre major to keep up my perseverance in a field that, to a good bulk of family and friends, still seems crazy and impractical, but it gave me that much more incentive to work hard and to continuously develop the kind of person and artist I am and want further to be.

What pleasantly surprises me is realizing how relatively young both Rodriguez and Oyen are. In retrospect, Rodriguez is in her early thirties and is just a bit more than ten years older than me, and Oyen is still in his twenties, just some years older than me. I guess it surprises me only because both have already done so much and yet still have so much that they're going to give. That being said, it paves the way and raises the bar of not just what I want to do in my life and career, but what I need to do... right here, right now. I doubt that I'm the only student who felt that sort of magic that day.

Super Bowl Prediction

Bill Wyatt
ARGO STAFF WRITER

During my time at Stockton, I have grown a particular fondness for the Philadelphia Eagles. Philadelphia has a unique sports culture to say the least, Bird Country is not a place to mess around. The birds spirit this year seems stronger than any.

As a lifelong Jets fan, I have learned that the Patriots are a force to be reckoned with. I believe the Eagles will do the reckoning and more.

When this Argo issue hits the stands Monday, I believe that the Eagles will be Super Bowl champions for the first time in franchise history!

Go Birds!