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FABLAB STRUMS UP SUCCESS

Alex Kennedy
Reporter

offer the students of Sinclair. Mongin worked in the lab as a technician, while

attending Sinclair and credits the guitar lab as a huge learning experience. He noted the process as a good way to develop skills that are practical in the

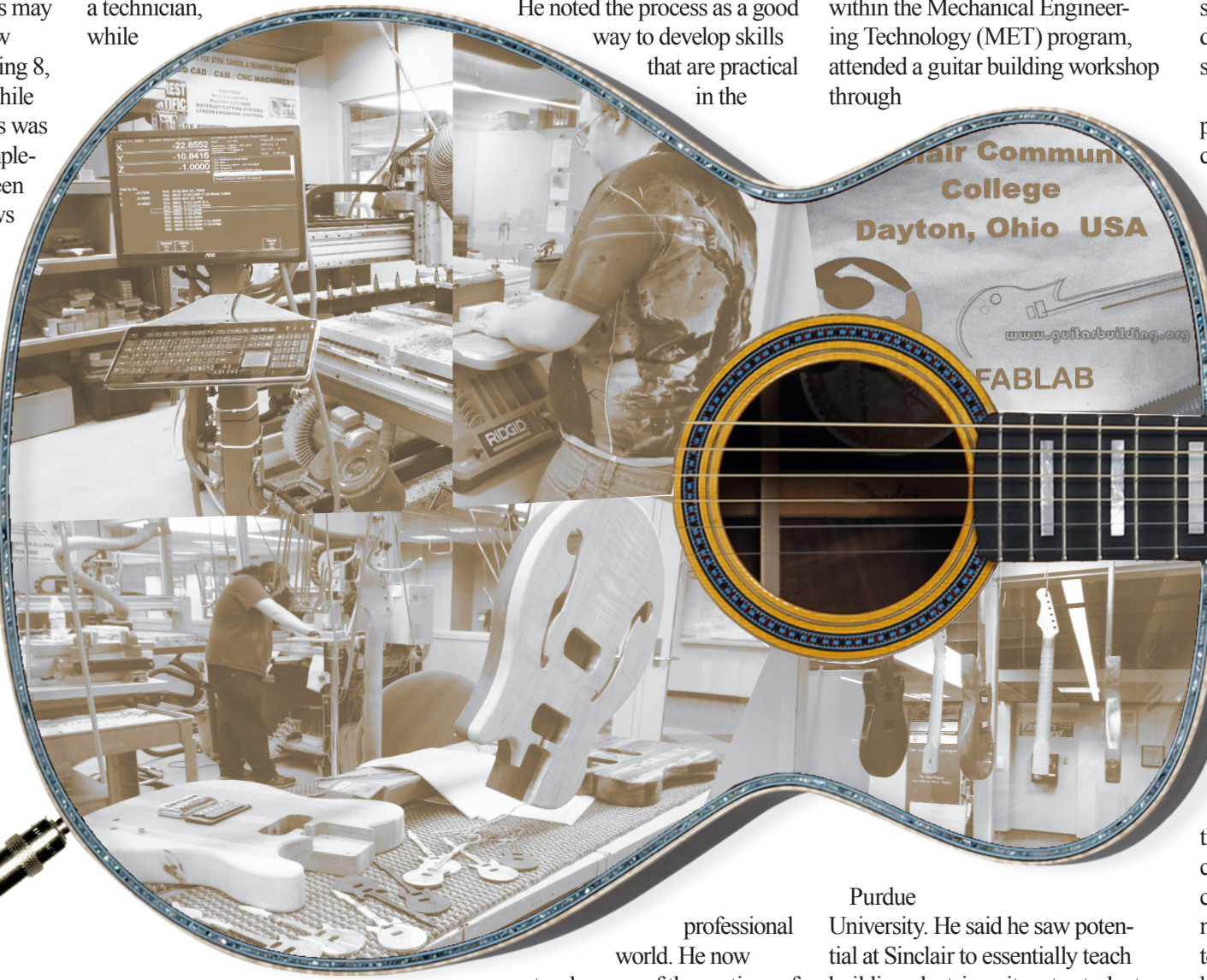
The idea to build a lab came about when Tom Singer, a professor within the Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) program, attended a guitar building workshop through

lum—students could build their own guitars, while learning useful skills such as innovative thinking, creative design, as well as working in a group setting.

Additionally, many other disciplines such as physics, math and chemistry are involved in the process of completing the guitars. This is great for students who love to work with their hands, as it teaches various important concepts that are relevant to almost any field of study, while simultaneously offering a

Many students may have seen the new workshop in Building 8, and were intrigued while the construction process was happening. After its completion, students could be seen peering into the windows out of curiosity to find freshly constructed guitars. Sinclair's own guitar lab, known as the FabLab, was previously located in Building 13, and focuses on building new guitars with STEM skills.

The Clarion had an opportunity to sit down with Matt Mongin, an adjunct faculty member at Sinclair, to get to know a little bit more about the guitar lab and what it has to



D'Angelo Philpot | Photographer

professional world. He now teaches one of the sections of the class this semester.

Purdue University. He said he saw potential at Sinclair to essentially teach building electric guitars to students through a STEM-oriented curricu-

fun alternative to a typical lecture style class, according to Singer.

“All students from all majors are welcome to join the guitar building class, it has no prerequisites. Don't be fearful about not being able to use tools or not having the ability to make something. The class is designed to provide the confidence in being able to make a musical instrument. You do not have to play guitar to be a good builder; however, it does help to hear your

Guitar continued on page 7

8 little candles

Christopher Witt
Reporter

This time of year is filled with many celebrations, two of the most common on any calendar year are Thanksgiving on November 26 and Christmas on December 25. Every year we stuff our face and exchange gifts and just have a merry time with our families and friends. So, where does

Empire (a successor state to Alexander the Great's massive empire) by the Maccabees. During this period, the Second Temple (also called the Holy Temple) was rededicated in Jerusalem.

According to the Talmud, as the revolt was taking place, the Temple was purified and the wicks of the menorah miraculously burned for eight days, despite the

year's Hanukkah starts on Sunday, December 6 and ends on Monday, December 14.

Hanukkah has many different customs that are somewhat comparable to those of other religious holidays. It is celebrated with a series of rituals that are performed every day for the duration of the holiday, some of which are family-based and some of which are com-



Contributed by Epicurus.com

Hanukkah, a holiday of the Jewish religion, fit into all of this?

Hanukkah (which can also appear as Chanukah or Hanukah) is called a “Festival of Lights” or “Festival of Dedication”. Its roots go all the way back to the 2nd century BC during an event called the Maccabean Revolt, a revolt against the Seleucid

fact that there was only enough sacred oil to keep the menorah burning for one day. Hence the reason why Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights. The holiday starts on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, which translates anywhere between late November to early December on the Gregorian calendar. This

munal. There are special additions to daily prayers and there is an addition to blessings after meals. The most important ritual of Hanukkah is the lighting of the menorah, the traditional candle-holder with four candlesticks on either side of a central candle, typically higher up on the menorah than the Hanukkah continued on page 8

Pre-Kwanzaa celebrates 26 years



Contributed by Flickr

Christopher Witt
Reporter

Barton Kleen
Managing Editor

Saturday, December 5, the African American Studies and Cultural Diversity Committee here at Sinclair will be hosting the 26th Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Event in the Ponnice Kendall Student Activity Center in Building 8's Lower Level from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It is free admission and is open to the general public. It is an evening dedicated to culture, family and community and how to preserve them.

It will be an evening filled with family fun, culture and health in the community, and will have health promotion and business vendors present. There will be a featured Soul Food dinner (called a Karamu), and entertainment and activities for people of all ages. A host of entertainers, including the Kuumba Drama-Drum & Dance Company and Mira Raye Entertainment featuring the Rainmakers will

be in attendance to perform. There is also to be a guest speaker at the event: Christopher D. Landrum, the minister at the Broadway Church of Christ.

For those who may be asking, “What is Kwanzaa and why is it important?”, here is your answer.

Kwanzaa, created by Maulana Karenga in 1965, is a week-long celebration held in the United States and other nations of the Western African diaspora in the Americas. It is a celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles behind them, collectively given the name Nguzo Saba.

It is the first specifically African-American holiday ever conceived and was originally supposed to act as an oppositional alternative to Christmas, but this was later changed as Kwanzaa became more mainstream. Due to this,

Kwanzaa began to be celebrated in addition to Christmas. The holiday itself has its roots in the black nationalist movements of the 1960s and was established in order to give African Americans a means to reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage by uniting in meditation and study of African traditions and Nguzo Saba.

Dr. Boktai Twe, Chair of the Psychology Department, is a proponent of racial socialization, or the “cultural orientation” of ethnic groups with their respective histories, customs and ideologies. By learning about their culture, Twe believes they will learn about themselves.

Pre-Kwanzaa and the celebration of Kwanzaa in Dayton can help serve to resocialize and remind the African American community of the traditional values of African American culture, according to Dr. Twe.

These values can get lost between the commoditization Kwanzaa continued on page 8

CAMPUSCALENDER

December 1, 2015
Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive
Library Loggia
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 2, 2015
Express Registration
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

December 3, 2015
Sinclair Talks: What's in Your Back Pack?
Building 8, Stage
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

December 4, 2015
Fall Honors and Service Learning Symposium
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 5, 2015
Pre-Kwanzaa Event
Building 8, Stage
5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

December 5, 2015
Holiday Choral Concert
Building 2, Blair Hall Theatre
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



International students recognized.

D'Angelo Philpot | Photographer



Contributed by volusion.com

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SINCLAIRCLARION



SUDOKU PUZZLE

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Every Sudoku game begins with some squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is due to how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares.

As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Sudoku Tips: Start by looking for numbers that occur frequently in the initial puzzle. For example, say you have a lot of 5's in the initial puzzle. Look for the 3x3 box where there is no 5. Look for 5's in other rows and columns that can help you eliminate where the 5 might go in the box. If there is a 5 in columns 1 and 2, then there can't be a 5 anywhere else in either of those columns. You know then that whatever leftmost 3x3 box that is missing a 5 must have it go in column 3. If you can eliminate all the possibilities in that box except for 1 square, you've got it down!

		5	1		4		3	
8				9		4	7	
				5				
5		1		7				4
3								7
7				1		8		3
				2				
	2	7		8				1
	8		5		7	2		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
					15					16				
14														
17					18					19				
20						21						22		
			23		24			25				26		
27	28	29				30	31					32		
33				34						35			36	37
38			39		40			41	42		43			
44				45			46			47		48		
		49			50	51				52				
			53							54				
55	56	57		58			59	60		61	62	63	64	
65			66						67					
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

Across

- 1 Luxurious
5 Decorative bedroom item
9 As such
14 Morales of "Jericho"
15 Improbable
16 Without stopping
17 What a party crasher may get
20 French room
21 Signifies
22 Nuggets' org.
23 Air traveler's concern, briefly
25 Mil. group that "teaches you to lead"
27 19th-/20th-century South African conflicts
33 "Stupid me!"
34 Unlikely prom king
35 Chocolate-covered caramel treats
38 Starting from
40 Event with arguments
43 Habit
44 NFL's winningest

coach

- 46 In the way indicated
48 Support
49 Horror movie characters
53 Jog
54 Petty with hits
55 Shindigs
58 Occupied
61 Shows of crowd approval
65 Film score component, and a hint to words hidden in 17-, 27- and 49-Across
68 "Sweeney ___ the Nightingales": Eliot poem
69 Newbie
70 Italian meat sauce
71 Do not disturb
72 Promote
73 Inbox clogger

Down

- 1 Lats relatives
2 Workplace welfare

agcy.

- 3 Caravel mover
4 Jewish campus organization
5 Mess of a place
6 Hurt
7 Out of the wind
8 Celtics coach before Rick Pitino
9 Lady Gaga, for one
10 Tolkien forest creature
11 Trigger guide
12 Uppity type
13 "Giant" author Ferber
18 Give away
19 Sufficient, to Shakespeare
24 Provide the bank layout to, say
26 Brag
27 Court figs.
28 Snack
29 Horror movie character
30 Hockey legend
31 Polishes in publishing
32 Memorial ___

Kettering: NYC hospital

- 36 Sleep ___
37 EPA issuances
39 Uninspired
41 Tuna type
42 Unbridled desire
45 Shorten
47 Assault
50 First-rate
51 Double exposures?
52 Affairs of the heart
55 Dashboard feature
56 "I'll pay"
57 2013 Wimbledon champ Andy Murray, e.g.
59 Eye problem
60 Title outranking viscount
62 Memo letters
63 Capital west of Moscow
64 Bathtub buildup
66 Bach's "Mass ___ Minor"
67 Texter's "What a riot!"

CLARION

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The Official Student Newspaper of



Staycation or vacation

Jimaur Calhoun
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When campus goes on its official winter break, students and their families may be looking for something to do with their free time. There is always the idea of going out for the holidays, whether in or out of town. For those who do not have the option of spending the extra cash to go away or just not in the mood to anything fancy, there is always the opinion of a staycation instead of a vacation. Defined as “a vacation spent in one’s home country rather than abroad, or one spent at home and involving day trips to local attractions,” staycation is an easier option than planning possibly expensive vacation that may not be enjoyed by all.

“I think staycations are a great idea,” Carol Trefler, a senior editor at “Fodor’s Travels” said to U.S. News.

“With costs of fares, gasoline, plane travel and road trips the add up can be expensive. Staycations can be a fabulous alternative.”

A local staycation destination would be the Five Rivers Metro Park, which will be opening their ice skating rink on November 26. Friends and families can ice skate, play broomball and curling and skate alongside the river during the Star-late skating events. Five Rivers wants participants to come share the vibrant atmosphere with a cup of hot chocolate and see why so many make the ice rink a family destination during the winter months.

If being outdoors is not an option during the winter months, one can make the most of their time with local venues such as the Dayton Art Institute, The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and the Dayton International Peace Museum.

If a staycation is what is

in mind and money is not much of a matter, there is the option of checking out what live theatre shows are playing in the area. The Schuster Center will team with the Dayton Ballet in a production of “The Nutcracker” starting on December 12. The weeklong event will have music presented by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, under the eye of Neal Gittleman, fusing the classic Tchaikovsky music interpretation with their unique sound. With the Dayton Ballet’s core ensemble and star dancers bringing the story’s drama to life The Nutcracker has become a family holiday tradition. Show times and ticket prices are available at daytonperformingarts.org.

However, Vacations away from local areas is a necessity for some families. Some feel the need to get away from the ordinary of their surroundings. Joe Diaz, co-founder of

“Afar Magazine” says that Americans who have the means to take a vacation but choose to have a staycation deprive themselves chances of exploring and seeing new things. “Travel is a great way to open your mind, open your heart and broaden your perspective.” Diaz said to u.s.news.com. Travel writer Kelly Mazur Travel says that staycations are nothing special. "It's great to explore your own city, but I do not think this is a substitute for travel, because you miss out on those life-changing, culture-shocking and exciting adventures you get in a foreign country," Mazur said to u.s.news.com.

"Sometimes a staycation just isn't what the doctor ordered, especially for people who are looking to get out of their daily routine and environment," Said Susan Eckert, owner of Adventure Women, a travel tour for women. "Many of the

women who travel with us say they are looking to travel on their own, unfettered by the responsibilities of home and work, with the freedom to leave the makeup off and truly be themselves."

“With all the agonies of travel that we all go through – especially business travelers who want nothing other than time to spend, really quality time, with their families. It’s just a great way to make the most of an especially short amount of time," says Susan Krauss Whitbourne, a professor of psychology at University of Massachusetts.

some ways, they're less stressful than getting-away vacations." So, the answer to which is better between a staycation



and a vacation is mostly up to those who want to participate in what activities that qualify as such. The best thing to do is plan ahead and on figure out if staying at home is an option.

HIV in Hollywood

Barton Kleen
Managing Editor

Charlie Sheen announced on the Today Show that the rumors he was HIV-positive were true. In doing so, Sheen said he hopes to “release” himself from the “prison” his HIV diagnosis four years ago has placed upon him as a high profile actor.

Sheen said during his appearance that he had paid upwards of \$10 million dollars to keep his diagnosis a secret. The extortion, according to Sheen, came even from within his “inner circle” of friend. “I thought they could be helpful. My trust turned to their treason,” Sheen said.

Sheen denied the possibility that he has transmitted the virus through high-risk behaviors like intravenous drug use or unprotected sex.

However, Sheen did disclose during his interview he had slept

with two women without protection, but that both women were aware of his status. Since the announcement, several women claiming to be partners of Sheen since his diagnosis have come forth claiming he did not inform them prior to intimacy.

Sheen reported on his taxes that he spent nearly \$1.5 million “friendly entertainment,” meaning sex workers during the calendar year. Sheen is unsure how he contracted the virus four years ago.

Sheen reflected on the many ups and downs of his personal and public life. "There's a lot out there I'm not proud of. You can only hear

'winning' in the streets so many times," he said. "I've pissed off a lot of really good



opportunities."

Sheen made headlines as being the highest paid television actor of the time, yet for complex reasons, being fired from “2 and a Half Men,” the long running TV series he starred in.

Sheen is one of an estimated 1.2 million HIV positive Americans, according to the CDC projections from the 2012-year. Sheen’s announcement has placed him alongside other celebrities to publicly come out as HIV positive, from Rock

Hudson’s shocking reveal to Magic Johnson, while others like Liberace took their diagnosis and struggles to the grave.

The spotlight on HIV has drawn attention to both the departures from the stigmatization of HIV from the onset in the 80’s and the similarities from both eras. Charlie’s co star, Jenny McCarthy admitted in a candid interview that she felt uncomfortable that Sheen had not been required to denote his STI status as there were several kissing scenes in the series.

“I was like, ‘Wait a second, if I have to be upfront about a herpe, how could you not be upfront about HIV,” McCarthy said.

McCarthy went on to detail that there were several intimate scenes that she felt should have warranted a denotation of STI status.

Lawsuits, if filed by the women who have spoken out about their experiences, would have legal grounds for doing so. Judge Alex Ferrer said during a Fox News broadcast that the Jury would be

responsible for deciding who is and who is not trustworthy in their testimony that they present, should there be a he-said-she-said scenario in the courtroom.

The concern of AIDS and how it pertains to a professional environment also relates to another prominent business in California, the adult film industry. After a recent AIDS outbreak in the California adult film scene, concern about regulating the adult video business to prevent aids transmission was raised by California legislative bodies and lobby groups.

California has recently proposed legislation requiring all actors of pornography use protection for all video productions. Failure to comply would result in a \$70,000 fine for the company.

Dayton has recently opened the Aids Resource Ohio building on 4th Street. Sinclair Community College provides free AIDS testing services on several occasions throughout the year, as well as counseling services for those dealing with or those that struggle with the reality of family members or friends going through life with HIV or AIDS.

Winter Festivities

Emily Culbertson
Reporter

If you’re like everyone else around the area, you’re always looking for something new to do, especially around the holidays. This is actually the biggest and best time of year to find easy fun things to do with your other half or the family, so you might think about checking out these events for some fun times!

Clifton Mill: Have you been to this place in Ohio that has made national history? If not, I highly suggest going because not only does it hold a world record in the United States for biggest light display but it also has one of the most magical feels you’ll ever experience. It’s a walk through with 3.5 million lights along with dining in

their dinner area. Clifton Mill is the perfect place to make family memories or just a romantic date for the evening. It opens at 5 p.m. every evening and is \$10 a person admission.

Christmas in the Village: The quaint town of Tipp City is decorating their small town for the holidays turning it into a magical wonderland of joy. As you wander through the town of Tipp City, you will see houses decked out in all the holiday lights along with all the shops staying open for business giving you the perfect opportunity to explore. They also have holiday workshops going for kids to enjoy and there is great food to try. It cost \$20 a person to walk through the holiday scene or \$16 if you want to buy the tickets before you arrive.

Woodland Lights: Take

a short trip out to this sight to see. You will experience a walk of nothing but lights through the Washington township area. They claim that it’s nothing but a world of fantasy in the Dayton area. To explore this holiday event it starts around December 4 at 6 p.m. You will see lights in all sort of shapes and designs, so don’t miss out!

PNC Festival of Lights: If you don’t mind a little bit of a drive and you love the zoo, like me, I suggest taking the short trip to Cincinnati for this one. They decorate the zoo in all lights, 2.5 million to be exact. There still will be some animals there for you to enjoy along with an elegant taste of foods to eat from. This event starts mid-December and travels through January 1.

Ice Skating: Are you more into sporty holiday fun? These three ice skating rinks around Dayton will

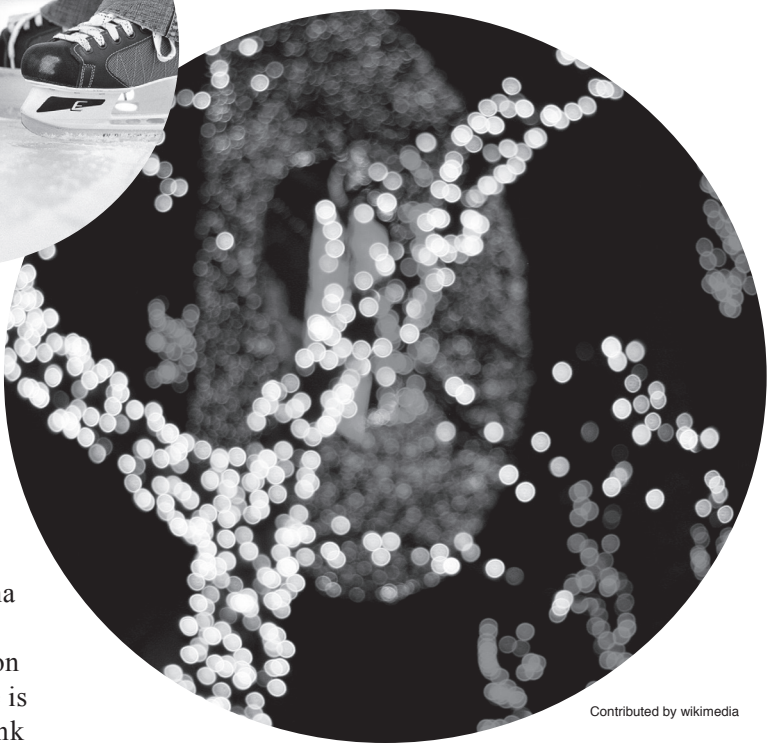
suit you perfectly. If you want to help the little ones learn, or maybe just learn for yourself, or maybe you are a really good ice skater, here are the



places you should go to. River Scape has been holding ice skating for the past years now, if you don’t mind being right in the middle of the downtown area of the city. Hoover Skate Arena is a must, check out for space to skate, located on Hoover Ave. Then there is South Metro Ice, this rink

is located at 10562 Success Ln. Dayton.

Carriage Ride: If you’re searching for a romantic evening with your other half, then head out to the Greene for one of their seasonal carriage rides. You will go all through the



small area of the Greene seeing all the Christmas lights, the big tree, and of course you get to go shopping and dine with some really good food. This one you can’t go wrong with for a magical relaxing evening with the one you love.

YOUR VOICE



Keep an eye out for Maggie Stacey around campus. She interviews students on campus, asking their opinions about relevant issues happening in Dayton and around the world.



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT
HAVING A ‘POLITICALLY CORRECT’ HOLIDAY GREETING?
HOW DO YOU PERSONALLY GREET OTHERS DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Reporting and photos by Maggie Stacey



Heather Rue
Dental Hygiene

“I feel like people should just accept the intent of the wish of good will, and not look a gift horse in the mouth. I mean if you celebrate one thing, then you can wish that to people, and if you celebrate something else—I mean, the fact of the matter is that the holiday is there whether you observe it or not. If it’s just December 13th to you, then have a good December 13th, and if it’s not, then have a good holiday. You can just say whatever. Somebody’s just basically telling you to have a good day, and I feel like people shouldn’t be getting upset about it. Somebody’s just trying to be nice. I say ‘happy holidays,’ it kind of comes from working in retail, that way I don’t have to specify or whatever. I’m not even myself particularly religious, so it’s just whatever you’re doing this season, have fun with it, have a good day.”



Frank Ritter
Electrical Engineering Tech

“I think it’s idiotic because people should greet other people however they want to. Like if I am a Christian, I am going to say Merry Christmas, because that’s heartfelt, that’s what I want to say. If I celebrate Hannakuh, if I’m Jewish, then I’m gonna say Happy Hannakuh. It’s the other person’s job to take it for the intent and not [for] the exact words that they said. I think there’s a politically correct way to accept such a greeting—which is to accept them all. I say ‘Merry Christmas,’ but that’s because I was raised with Christmas.”



Jason Elliott
Business Management

“People should be able to say whatever they want to whomever, and everybody should respect what they say. We shouldn’t have to say anything because if you believe in God, it’s inside you; you don’t have to have somebody say it to you, but if you want to say it, you should be able to. Other than that it shouldn’t be anybody’s business but a personal thing, I think. I know people get offended easier in these days, but if you’re going to function in society, you have to be able to handle that without making it a big ordeal. . . I have my beliefs and I’ll stand with them no matter what the person says. As long as it’s polite and nice, I don’t see any problem with anything anyone says. . . I usually say ‘Have a good day,’ that way I cover everything.”



Andrea Murphy
Paralegal Business

“Everybody has their own beliefs as far as what they personally believe in, religious-wise, so for that belief, most people would rather you say ‘happy holidays’ versus ‘Merry Christmas; Happy Thanksgiving,’ of that nature. I myself honestly actually would rather say happy holidays for the simple fact that I don’t know what that other person’s religion may be. I try not to offend people, so I say ‘Happy holidays,’ and just leave it short. Offending somebody’s heritage, nationality, and belief, it could trigger things, and I just want to say it simple.”

POETRY PICK

Why the Sun Didn’t Rise By Jessica McGriff

Dawn breaks but the sun does not rise
For over yonder way a child cries

Oh how the gray skies mourn
For a child who was never born

Guilty red blood fills the air
By a mother who didn’t care

Two feet that will never walk
Two lips that will never talk

A life that was ended
A heart that can’t be mended

The Clarion is accepting student poetry submissions.
Email clarion@sinclair.edu to submit your work.
Any reader submissions do not express views, opinions, or perspectives of The Clarion.

Clarion Corrections:
The Clarion would like to correct an error that ran the November 17 edition. The cartoon "Social Media" artist was printed as Jewel Ward. The correct artist is XKCD. The Clarion regrets the error.

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"DEAR GABBY"



Dear Gabby,

So I am a 25-year-old student at Sinclair, and I feel like I have been here forever. I'm getting a degree in Liberal Arts, but I'm getting very discouraged because most of my friends are college graduates with a Bachelor's degree, whilst I'm still at Sinclair trying to earn my associate's degree.

I know the time will eventually pass, but I am just worried I won't make it to graduation because I can't get over the fact about how long it's taking me to graduate. I work part-time, while going to school so I know that's why it's taking me a long time, but I am just question-

ing if I should just quit and maybe go back when I have motivation and drive to finish it. I figured I could at least start working full time and make more money. What do you think?

Sincerely,
Tired of school

Dear Tired of school,

You are not alone. I know I struggle with the same worries, and I know many other people who do as well. I understand how hard it is to want to graduate and just get on with your life, but the time spent here is well worth it. It's easy to start comparing yourself to others, especially friends, and see them have a four-

year degree, and working on finding a steady career, but just remember your priorities are different.

The exciting part about a community college is that it gives you an opportunity to still get an education, as well as work and meet a wide variety of people. Most people here are balancing work, school and social life, which is something that should be learned in life anyways.

People get caught up in the final destination that they forget about the journey. It's about the process that gets you the ending—so it's going to be hard work, but it's worth it. In my personal opinion, I think you should keep going

and finish. It's going to be hard to get back in the groove of things if you quit. On the other hand, if you feel like you'd have more motivation if you took a break then that might benefit you too.

My grandpa gave me the advice to think about how far I have come, rather than how far I have to go, and I must say it really helps. Obviously keep your goals and ending in your sight, but don't dread on the process or compare yourself to others.

Good luck,
Gabby

"Dear Gabby" is written by Executive Editor, Gabrielle Sharp. The views and advice expressed in "Dear Gabby" replies are solely the opinion of Gabrielle Sharp. They are not reflective of the Clarion or Sinclair Community College. Gabrielle Sharp is not a professional counselor, and her advice shouldn't be taken as such. If you think you are in danger of hurting yourself or others, please visit a professional counselor.

Reaching critical masses: Grief-shaming and the social breaking point

Barton Kleen
Managing Editor

Acts of terrorism in Paris generated online response that while at first was patriotic, uniting and in condemnation of terroristic acts—eventually took a turn from respectful to vilification of those that expressed grief, solidarity or support from some on social media.

The hash tag [Expletive]Paris was created by some #BlackLivesMatter movement supporters, condemning public support for focusing on the loss of life of the 127 people during the Paris terrorist attacks in mid November, opposed to the movements at college campuses like Yale, who oppose racial discrimination and most importantly, offensive costuming.

Facebook was quick to offer a service for Parisians to "mark themselves

safe" from the terrorist attacks of the day. Personally, I was relieved. I had gone to bed when the death toll reached around 44 after a stressful day. I was concerned for my

friends in Paris and around France.

To me it was reminiscent of September 11, except now I am 14

years older at 21. Instead of being at home on the pullout couch recovering from a massive surgery with my mother when the news came on and the footage came

across the screen of the television. My mother immediately called everyone in my family and

there was so much confusion and sheer disbelief and sadness and that day echoed it back to me even all the way in America. Many in the country felt similarly.

When I woke up, I checked social media and through Facebook I thankfully saw each of my friends had marked themselves safe.

Along with this, Facebook created a temporary profile filter that covered the user's current photo with the colors of the French flag, in the order they appear, transposed.

A few days after the massive amount of people who changed their photos in support, grief or any other notion, some reverted their images back. Why? Well, it was politically incorrect to express your emotions in response to the image. I saw plenty of opinions espoused and directed at these people essentially

shaming them.

According to these #BLM supporters, people only cared about the tragedies in Paris because France is a "white" country, thus being fueled by white supremacy. Users of the hashtag criticized these people using hashtags like #JeSuisParis for only caring about terrorism and loss of life because it happened to "white people."

Obviously those comments are amusing to anyone who has been to Paris in the past 15 years. Many users called for the same amount of attention to be paid to the issues at Yale and Mizzou.

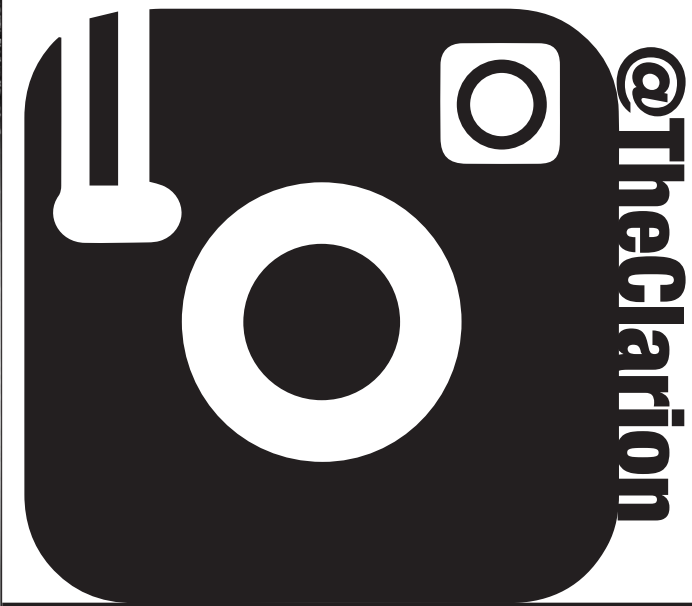
The day was horrifying, filled with two earthquakes, a funeral bombing in Iraq, and more attacks in Syria. In today's society, you can no longer express emotions or even grief. GRIEF is offensive and grounds for criticism.

Why? Because if you express sentiments for anything specifically, you are attacked for not responding to EVERY event that happens, at any point, anywhere. There is too much information to be socially responsible for responding to, yet the consequence for not doing so is often ostracization. You should not feel responsible for, or for emotionally responding to every plight or concern. You are one person and are better off living your life and starting with yourself.

Our age is the only age in which people have volunteered their persons to criticism and their criticisms to persons at such a massive forum. Everything someone does, in my generation, is catalogued on his or her social media.

Facebooked, tweeted,

My Voice continued on page 7



PUZZLESOLUTIONS

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Campus clubs — Community on campus

James Duty
Contributing Writer

Student clubs and organizations add to the educational experience at Sinclair. Sinclair Community college along student engagement offer a variety of student clubs and organizations that range in a variety of different topics.

Sami Gibson a Criminal Justice Science for Corrections major is a second year student and president of Brite Signal Alliance, Sinclair’s gay straight alliance. “The thing that interests me most about BSA is the diversity. There is a lot of different walks of life there. The club doesn’t just consist of people from the LGBT

Community, there is also many supporters.” Brite Signal Alliance has brought a variety of events to Sinclair campus including diversity day, Transgender Day of Remembrance and Sinclair’s all-inclusive Once Upon a Prom.

In a similar sense there

are a variety of other student clubs including ACES, WiSTEM and UAAMP that support other minority groups like women and the African American student body. These clubs provide support and give minority groups a voice on campus.

While Brite Signal Alliance and similar clubs cater to special interest groups those are not the only types of clubs Sinclair has to offer. There are also a host of academic clubs available including Psychology, Hospitality and Culinary, Art and Criminal Justice.

KC a psychology major is also a member of a variety of clubs including sociology club and psychology club on campus and is still looking for more to be a part of. “I liked the idea of being able to talk about stuff and people being able to relate” KC says about her experience, “Because we are in the club for a mutual interest. Also to learn more about a certain topic.”

While student organizations bring with them a fun

social atmosphere, academic clubs also provide students with networking, experience and support outside of Sinclair.

“I get to meet new people.” Janell Pennington says. Pennington is a Meeting and Event Planning major who is a new member of the Hospitality and Culinary Club, “It relates to the career field I’m entering, that helps on resumes as well as networking. With bake sales, the event planners are the ones who will be running it and that’s more experience.”

USA News stated in 2011 that student organizations provide five main resources to students: Building a connection to their schools, forming a community on campus and interaction with those outside, self-discovery through passions and strengths, boosting one’s resume and helping to teach leadership and time management skills.

“For me Brite Signal has helped me feel more comfortable talking in front of

a group of people.” Gibson says, “Because of this I am more active in my classes. I have also developed skills in being friendly towards others and making friends with people. I have become more open minded about the views of others. I feel the skills that I have developed will help me with my future career.”

UniversityParent.com says career opportunities are the fundamental resource a club can offer. Being active in the community that pertains to your major and networking with fellow students who will someday be in that field make student clubs invaluable, “Encourage the college student in your life to take advantage of those opportunities and it will enhance your student’s future career, enrich the college experience, and give her a great chance of post-college success.”

UniversityParent.com also mentions the potential of scholarship opportunities that can come with clubs when transferring to a four year institution or applying for grants.

When it comes to joining a club that interests you Pennington says, “Just do it. You may learn something you didn’t in class and partici-

pate! You will make friends and have more items for your resume! Clubs always look good on a resume!”

“The school should most certainly support the clubs!” KC says, “They offer more than learning, they help students make connections to others who enjoy the same things and overall boost student moral.”

Students who need help finding out about clubs and other student engagement activities can meet with Kates Brommeland, Student Engagement Coordinator in room 8025.

“I work with the advisors to provide guidance and support,” Brommeland says, “I give the forms that are needed, communicate space availability, suggest what events may look like and guide clubs to make an event successful. Likewise club leaders can come to my office and I can talk to them and provide that information.”

Brommand hopes her presence this year in the student engagement department will help streamline the process between the student clubs and the school so that students can create events that showcase their skills in the most effective way.

“Clubs provide that real word experience, promote students contact, they provide connections and support, making new friends.” Brommeland says, “I can even think back to my college experience and some of the lifelong friendships I developed were through the clubs and organizations I was involved in”

Brommeland believes student organizations provide leadership opportunities beyond what is conventional. How to type up meeting notes, communicate and connect with outside agencies, problem solving and conflict management are all areas Brommand feels clubs provide students a second way of learning.

Students who can’t find what they are looking for in clubs can also look into starting their own club. Brommeland aids students in finding resources and bringing together what’s necessary for students to meet the criteria of building a new club.

For students seeking clubs, engagement activities or staring a club contact Student and Community Engagement Department. Building: 8025 Phone: 512-2509

Urban African American Mentor Program

Celia Lavoie
Reporter

UAAMP is the Urban African American Mentor Program. The program connects a faculty member, staff member and student to help the student succeed. The program began in 2006 after realizing that less and less students were graduating. Realizing this, a group of faculty and staff set out to find the problem and solve it. In a research project, they found that students lacked a connection to faculty and staff they needed.

“We thought it would be a good idea to connect [students] with a faculty member and a staff member so they would have resources from both sides of Sinclair to help them be able to reach their dreams of what they wanted to be able to do,” program coordinator Linda Pastore-Gaal said.

While the program is determined to help students in need, it supports those who want to help themselves. The program is selective and recruits students. Students interested must have at least a 2.0 GPA, have completed at least six credit hours and are at least in their second semester. There is also an application and interview process. In this process, coordinators such as Pastore-Gaal make sure the student is serious and committed to the program.

“It’s a commitment that you’re willing to work with a mentor team and that you’re willing to learn more and be more interactive and connected with Sinclair,” Pastore-Gaal said.

While the application process can be intimidating, it is in the student’s best interest. The pro-

gram is there to help the student achieve their goals. Coordinator Dona Fletcher notes that students generally have an idea of the things holding them back or things they want to improve.

“The students actually determine what they need help with and that’s what we seek to provide through the mentors,” Fletcher said.

Faculty and staff members

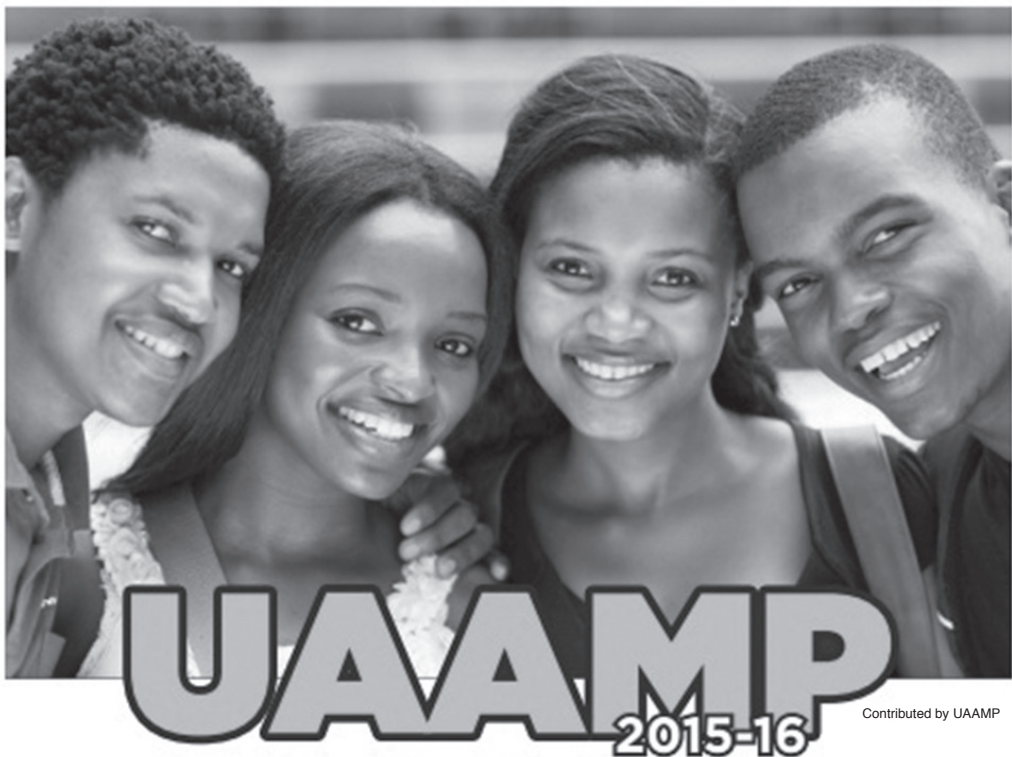
because somewhere along their journey, someone has mentored them,” Coordinator Kelly Smith said.

Once mentor teams are together, they meet every week face-to-face. This is a requirement in the program to build those relationships. “It’s all about getting to know each other and connecting because every single group is different,”

This is done through a yearly service project. Fletcher, who added the service learning to UAAMP. As a group, UAAMP chooses a community service to do together in the spring.

“To me, it is very important that students are connected to the communities they are from,” Fletcher said.

Last year, the students participated in making “Bless-



also have an application process to explain why they want to be involved. Faculty and staff are also asked to be fully committed. Faculty, staff and students are put together based on similarities. For example, a chemistry major would be put with a chemistry staff member. This is all in an attempt to build deeper connections that will help advance the student and help them reach their goals.

“I think a lot of people who join to be mentors view it as an opportunity to give back

Pastore-Gaal said.

In the end, the goal is simple. Graduation. The program is in place to get students a degree or certificate so they can enter the workforce or transfer to another institution. UAAMP gets involved as early as possible and follow them to the end.

“We’re at the finish line cheering with them,” Smith said.

In addition to working on the student’s academic life, the program also requires students do something for the community.

ing Bags” and Smith says the turnout was amazing. The “Blessing Bags” contained toiletries and other essential products for those in need. Together, UAAMP created 250 “Blessing Bags” that were then distributed to several nonprofit organizations.

These service projects are meant to help the students as well as the community. Everything in the program is for its students.

“For us, it’s all about the student,” Pastore-Gaal said.

8 little candles

Hanukkah continued from front

other eight. One candle is lit each night, alternating from right to left of the central candle, one after another until all eight are lit. The central candle, which is called a shamash (means “attendant”), is also lit and is lit every night regardless of what day of Hanukkah it is.

The purpose of this central light is to enforce Jewish doctrine against the use of the Hanukkah lights for anything except the meditation and publicizing of the Hanukkah miracle. According to tradition, Hanukkah lights should usually burn for at least a half an hour after sunset. Three blessings (called brachot) are recited over the candles; all three are recited on the first night of Hanukkah, while on the other seven nights only the first two are recited. The blessings are recited either before or after the lighting of the menorah, depending on family tradition.

Much like other holidays, there are moments of revelry and fun. A large number of songs have been written for Hanukkah, more than any other Jewish holiday. Some well-known songs are “Maoz Tzur” (“Rock of Ages”), “Ocho Kandekilas” (“Eight Little Candles”) and “Haneirot Halolu” (“These Candles Which We Light”). In English-speaking countries, the most

well-known songs include “Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel” and “Chanukah, Oh Chanukah”. Some Jewish sects play the violin after the menorah has been lit according to their customs. There is a custom to eat foods fried or baked in oil (preferably olive oil). This is to commemorate the miracle of a small flask of oil keeping the flame alive in the Holy Temple for eight days.

Traditional foods include the latke, a potato pancake, jam-filled doughnuts, bimuelos (fritters) and sufaniyot, which is deep-fried in oil. One favorite game of children during Hanukkah is called dreidel, which is a four-sided spinning top that has Hebrew letters imprinted on each side. The game works like this: each player starts off with 10 or 15 markers (can be anything like coins, candies, chocolates, etc.), the first player will then spin the dreidel and depending on which side it lands on, the player takes that action. This keeps up until one player has won everyone else’s markers.

Another custom of the holiday is the passing out of gelt (Yiddish for money), usually to children during the festival of Hanukkah, and it also adds to the excitement of the holiday. The amounts of this gelt typically are small amounts, though relatives can pass out larger sums.

International Series: Iceland

Nick Felts
Staff Writer

Sinclair just finished this year’s “International Series” which are presentations by professors or international students who have visited their native country or another country and have come back to share their experiences. Previous presentations were done by Katherine Rowell on September 16 over Mongolia, Yolanda Burgos-Olinger on October 21 on Puerto Rico, and most recently, a dual presentation by Sinclair professors Mohsen



Khani and Derek Petrey on the “Land of Fire and Ice”, Iceland. The presentations were held in Building 8 and ran an hour long with free food from the presented country. For Iceland, fish was brought and shared, since it is Iceland’s major export.

Iceland’s presentation had two professors that both went on the same trip to Iceland. Mohsen Khani and Derek Petrey went in a group of about five, including friends and former students, in May of 2015 for 6 days. Around the end of the presentation, Petrey added that the entire cost of the trip, including airplane, hotel, and

a car for the whole week, was about \$1300-\$1400 per person. This price escalates the closer you get towards winter because people want to experience the northern lights and the 24-hour darkness that occurs in that time of year.

Mohsen Khani, a professor of Geography here at Sinclair, was the first to speak about their trip to Iceland. He started off by saying, “Iceland was not on my bucket list, although I’m really really glad that I went, because it really is a geographer’s dream to see how the country is formed.” Because he is a professor of geography it’s understand-

Iceland continued on page 8

MY VOICE

Instagrammed, Vined, YouTube'd... all of these have comment sections. We seek reactions from people voluntarily, and we have allowed this century of rapid informational discourse technologies to shape our identity and inner selves.

The point is, we have passed the tipping point. It is now commonplace to have what I call the modern image obligation. With the entire Internet just seconds away with a post, picture or comment, the frame in which we both express ourselves and relate to others has changed dynamically.

There is a sense of maintenance required that is tagged along with the modern identity. It is causal to do something, even as basic as eating and to snapchat, Instagram or really put it on any social platform. Everyday tasks that others have never bothered to pay attention to have now entered the grounds for public commentary.

It is certainly fair to say every generation has had activities and cultural customs that relate to identity and interaction. I do not dispute that. However, the informational age has allowed for such a vast influx of otherwise useless or non-significant information that what is "public" now includes the formerly mundane mo-

notony of the day-to-day routine.

The routine has now become much more of a status, figuratively and literally on social media. This creates a tangible sense of social discomfort, pressing the urge to conform to the reactions to others. Even if these others are simply strangers on the Internet.

The significance of the way social media has changed society cannot be understated. When crisis workers handle problems with children, and bullying in particular, the first thing they tend to advise is that all social media is cut off entirely. Subjecting children to the judgment of countless peers and to the extension of the Internet has empirically harmed children.

The Internet for better or for worse has provided a platform for voices of all positions to speak out. However, this directly relates to the media and vocal minorities. I never met anyone upset by the Starbucks faux controversial cup. Fake controversy after fake controversy is cooked up by groups with agendas and is exaggerated to control public opinion. This is not new, propaganda has existed for centuries, and for centuries it has been effective.

However now, as a consequence of these effects,

My voice continued from page 5

the force of public opinion has uniquely found its way into the business of selective silencing of the opposition.

"Tolerant" has come to mean quite the opposite of tolerant to many preaching for its necessity. This has very real impacts on how we socialize and function as groups of people in societies.

The impact of the politically correct movement is to the point where it's appropriate on even the campuses of our highest educational institutes to believe that a person's race qualifies them to speak on a subject or to be disregarded and silenced. Events on campuses have specifically prohibited the presence of persons based on their perceived race, sex or political viewpoint. But discrimination and quite possibly the most blatant infractions to our very Constitution are allowed, so long as it's in the name of a "safe place" or "diversity" and those that are ostracized are at least perceived white.

Which leads to the only point I could sincerely hope to make, although there are some social movements I even agree with, there is no rhyme or reason to feel the need to politicize every waking moment of your person.

I can assure you that although it may feel gratifying to see a hundred likes on your status about racial equality,

almost the entire West agrees with you. The notion of equality is not unknown nor an unaccepted principle here. It is one of the most supremely contingent ideas of the Western world. Perhaps it is not the West that needs this message the most, and perhaps 140 characters is not the best avenue for it.

So for the love of God, please do not feel the need to go on your Facebook, full of 95% of people that accept these principles already, and feel the need to inject your negative cynicism into their life simply because you want to feel high off your sense of moral superiority.

You may not notice it, but others will. If you habitualize anger, it will bleed into the rest of your being. You will be up in arms your entire life and never appreciate peacetime. You will notice only that which evokes the emotion from you and ostracize the good.

Realize how channels affect your message and relate to your sense of identity and purpose for communicating.

Screaming at one another is just souring your relationships with others and how your persona is interpreted. I can guarantee that if all you post are "problems" they are similar enough to complaints that people will associate you with your content.

After all, if it is your prerogative to be adversarial, you will be treated as an adversary on many

occasions—even on those in which you are an ally.

If everything you give the world is just something someone has given you, you will lose all sense of yourself; being tricked into giving your individuality up entirely.

The widespread optics of such sincere and pressing issues has done many things. One of which is to polarize communities, the other of which is to desensitize the entire world.

Struggles are more visible than ever before thanks to the medium, but at the same time, the massive conflations of the non issues that generate public opinion detract from the reality of deeply concerning issues like terrorism and the resulting loss of life.

Those grief-shaming the flag-profiled photo are quick to presume or accuse the flagged profiler of simply only caring about Paris, the Independent's so and so going so far as to say those who support France are supporters of colonialism, instead should first ask themselves: "Do I pay enough attention to the news to criticize or assume the thoughts of others?"

If the first response the internet has to the loss of life is "well other things are also bad" or to find a problem with something so simplistic, and they're not an edgy teenager, but a fully grown, "educated" and functioning adult, I have a sincere concern

for the depth of thought people are capable of having.

The Internet's revolutionary means of giving us information from all over the world in mere seconds has over stimulated us. The ugly reality is that absolutely terrifying and horrific situations are a regular occurrence in a world of 7.6 billion unique persons. If we were truly sensitive to every tragedy and plight, I assure you we would be completely incapable of accomplishing anything good or just.

We are equipped with the biological capacity for empathy and understanding as individuals, we are not equipped to relate to 7.6 billion other organisms or to fathom their struggles or their despair.

The best we can do, while functioning ourselves, is empathizing with what we can in the ways that we can. For some, it is participating in small notions of unity like creating a display in remembrance of the Paris tragedies or saying they'll stand with France in this tough time. If your first response is to judge someone so harshly on something so small, you may need to broaden the scope in which you see the world around you.

A loud voice from the people is composed of the many softer sounds of each unique person. However, should you resort to saying anything just to make a sound, it is worse than having said nothing at all.

Three road wins

Matthew Summers
Sports Editor

The Tartan Pride men's basketball team kicked off their season with three road wins this past week, two of which were in Michigan. The Pride dominated The Ohio State University-Lima branch 124-88 while forward Reshardd Harris provided 32 points, seven rebounds, five assists, three steals, and was 14-17 from the field. Six Tartans scored in the double digits, but not without a cost. Guard Patrick Crawford, a player Coach Price has talked highly about, suffered a knee injury and will have an MRI on the 13th to determine if it is an ACL injury.

"The one thing you can't plan for is injuries. DeAngalo Gates had a concussion in our last scrimmage so he was out for a week. He didn't even play in the Ohio State-Lima game," says Price.

Coach Price and company headed north to play St. Clair County and Jackson College in Michigan. Guards DeAngalo Gates and Quinten McComas produced 32 points off

the bench and had just as many points as the top three starters combined in route to an 86-76 victory.

"Playing in Michigan, these region games really count double. This goes a long way for rankings," says Price.

The game against Jackson was much more competitive as Sinclair barely got by with a 97-94 victory where neither team really showed up on defense.

"Both teams couldn't stop each other. It looked like it was going to be a pro game. It looked like it was going to be 136-130," says Price.

The Pride were up 18 in the second half, but they let it slip away as Jackson's Charles Lawler exploded in the second half.

"He scored 38, but 31 came in the second half. We had absolutely no answer for him. To his credit, he was just making shots," says Price.

With four minutes left in the game, the Pride were down six but settled down when Akiean Frederick and Marcellous Washington hit three-pointers to get the lead back and gain momentum. With roughly 50 seconds left, the players

took the game into their own hands and called their own play.

"A couple of sophomores came up with a play to give us the lead. They were the ones that made the decision. That makes me feel good that I didn't have to call it and use a time out," says Price.

Manny Powell scored the last two baskets to secure a victory and send the Pride back home on a successful road trip. Coach Price was very excited the way his team handled adversity towards the end of the Jackson game.

"Down the stretch, they showed me they could handle the adversity. Even in the time out, they were thinking about 'how are we going to win a ball game'? Their experience came through," says Price.

The Pride have one more road game at Hocking College before they debut for the home opener against Henry Ford College on November 21st. Nine of their next ten games are played at home as they look to continue their hot start to the season.

Reineke, named player of the week

Afi Ntonolo
Reporter

Sinclair volleyball team has had a great season. This month of November freshman Meg Reineke was named NJCAA Division II Volleyball player of the week. Reineke, a graduate from Knoxville High School, played for four years of varsity as a starter for Knoxville High school. This year was Reineke's first time here at Sinclair. The National Junior College Athletic Association also known as (NJCAA) announced Reinke, as NCJAA player of the week in women's volleyball for week 11. Reineke, an outside hitter for the Tartans, opened the week with 29 kills and 30 digs in a win over Columbus State. Playing versus University of Cincinnati Clermont, Reineke has 20 kills, 16 digs and 2 blocks. Closing out the week with 11 kills and 13 dgs in sweep of Cuyahoga.

Reineke totaled 60 kills, 59 digs, 3 aces, 4 blocks (one solo) and



Contributed by Reineke

one assist. Not only did Meg Reineke get honored for NJCAA Player of the week, but Reineke was also OC-CAC Player of the week for the same week and was just selected first team All-American Conference.

I asked Reineke how it felt to be honored with NCJAA and also OC-CAC Player of the week. Her response, "When I found out I was player of the week, I was really

excited and it boosted my confidence for the upcoming games."

Reineke will be returning for the Tartan next coming season. Sinclair finished the regular season 18-12 overall and 8-6 in the always tough OCCAC. The Tartans lost both Region XII District F tournament matches last week at Owens CC to complete the season.



The Pride have their first home game November 21 against Henry Ford College.

D'Angelo Philpot | Clarion Staff

Strike a chord

Guitar continued from front

handy-work," Singer said.

The course is called Guitar Manufacturing, which uses STEM Concepts and is usually offered two different slots per semester—one of them being on a Saturday. The course is three credit hours, and there are no prerequisites required in order to sign up. Students who register for this class are able to pick from seven different body styles and two different head stocks—the part of the guitar

to which the tuners are usually attached.

In addition to offering a great course, Sinclair's guitar lab also produces their own kits, which go out to high school and junior high students enrolled in STEM classes all over the nation. Over one thousand kits are produced each year at Sinclair. The kits contain rough cut bodies, necks, fretboards and fret wire. The production of these kits is part of a larger network called The National STEM Guitar Project.

This project has been featured in the National Science Foundation, and it gives younger students an opportunity to gain some hands on experience in working on projects that will be relevant to their potential career field in engineering or any other STEM subject, Mongin and Singer.

The lab is also offering free standard guitar frames. For more information visit the FabLab in Building 8, room 039.



Contributed by Flickr

Millenials moving in

Maggie Stacey
Staff Writer

Many American college students aspire to move out and away from their parents after graduation, but statistics show these dreams may be falling apart. Even though unemployment rates for young adults ages 18 to 34 have decreased by 4.7 percent over the past five years, more and more millennials are living with their parents.

In American society, we generally expect that young adults pursuing higher education will live at home or in dorms for their college years before graduation. We also expect that once graduated, they will move out to begin their adult careers and lives—but what happens if they do not? We may be finding out.

College enrollment increased from 34 percent to 37 percent between 2007 and 2012 but declined again by two percent between 2012 and 2015. Even when students enroll in and complete college, the cost of their education may be deterring their efforts to gain independence.

Zoe Mull, Theater Performance Major at Sinclair, worries about the possibility of moving back in with her father and step-mother after graduation. She cited the reason as earning minimum wage in her current career.

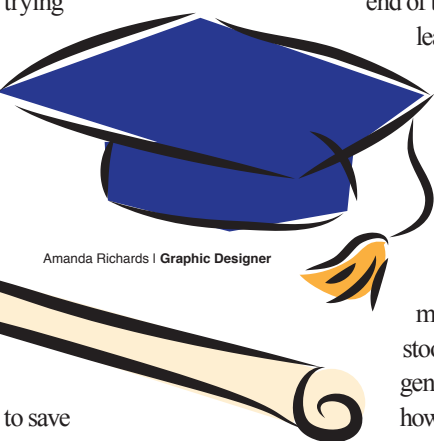
“My whole working career, I’ve never made enough to live on my own. I’m worried I’m going

to have to work my [expletive] off, and I won’t be able to make as much money as I need to and everything just falls apart. That’s a huge fear—financial distress,” Mull said.

In 2012, the median weekly earnings among young adults was \$547 and in 2015, it is \$574. Though this has increased, Mull believes these numbers contribute to the increasing number of adults living at home.

Diana San, Business Administration Major at Sinclair, does not worry about the poassibility of moving back home after graduation. However, she also believes finances are a large factor in the living situations of young adults.

“I feel like [students] are just trying



Amanda Richards | Graphic Designer

to save money and I think it’s just easier for them to just rely on their parents instead of trying to figure out on their own,” San said.

Not all students are anxious about the possibility of moving back in. Violet Johnston, Business Management Major at Sinclair, lives with her mother and believes she is set apart from the majority

because she lacks such anxiety.

“I don’t worry about it because I love my mom and we have a good relationship, and I’m pretty free and independent to go in and out, so it’s not like it’s hampering my living style to live with her,” Johnston stated.

By the first third of 2015, only 40 percent of 18 to 24 year olds lived independently and apart from their families. Is moving back in the emerging trend of millennials?

Maverick Glascoe, Linguistics Major at Sinclair, does not mind being a millennial. “I feel pretty good about it, just getting out there every day and doing what you can, doing your best, and bringing back what you can at the end of the day, with what you’ve learned,” he said. “I think it’s overall a good experience. I’m enjoying my time doing what I can here at school and then going to work every day.”

Mull believes being a millennial is to be misunderstood. “It’s like a lot of older generations don’t understand how badly messed up the economy, the housing market, and wages are. They don’t quite get it,” she said.

Johnston summarized her thoughts—and perhaps the feelings of many young adults—by saying, “Millennials have an interesting challenge ahead of them for sure, with just the way that our society is today.”

than Pennsylvania, around the size of Ohio or Kentucky, but while Ohio has a population of 11 million, Iceland only has a population of 330,000, with 1/3 of their citizens living in the capitol, Reykjavik. Iceland is considered one of the top 10 happiest countries in the world. One interesting way they get feedback in stores is by setting up a small kiosk with 4 buttons, ranging from bad to good, that you press on your way out to tell them how you felt about their service.

Another interesting fact is their use of geothermal energy. Because Iceland is located on top of lots of geothermal activity, they use the energy to heat and provide hot water for 87% of all buildings.

Iceland is also the world’s major contributor to gender equality. They were the first country in the world to believe women and men should be equal and in 1915, women in Iceland gained the right to vote, four years before the US. In 1975, there was a big debate about equal pay and 90% of the women in Iceland protested by taking the day off. 10% of the population came to Reykjavik and marched on behalf of equal pay. Only a year later, they passed the Gender Equality Act. This only led to more revolutionary events such as Iceland electing Vigdis Finnbogadottir as president in 1980, the world’s first directly elected female head of state. And in 2009 they broke cultural barriers again when they elected the first openly

gay head of government, Johanna Siguroardottir for Prime Minister.

The presentation had much more information than what is provided here and was a really great source of information for people who are considering travelling to another country. The International Series has presentations each year and for students who are planning a trip or vacation out of the country for the first time, it is highly recommended as a great first step in that direction. Not only do you get plenty of information about the country’s history as well as a current look at their society today, you also have the option to ask the presenters any questions that you may have about their trip and get a strong idea of what you’re getting into before you take the leap yourself.

The seven principles

Kwanzaa continued from front

of Black Culture and the urban jungle of inner-cities, Twe believes.

“We have turned African American culture into a commodity. And often times, it is the worst aspect that has been commodified. When that is projected to the mainstream culture and to African Americans themselves, many of them believe that that is what the culture is. It perpetuates that [struggle].

“What Kwanzaa does, it reminds us all that there is more to African American culture than what you see on TV, what you see in a movie or hear on the radio,” Twe said.

Karenga established the seven principles called Nguzo Saba, stating it was a “communitarian African philosophy” and it consisted of “the best of African thought and practice in constant exchange with the world.” These principles comprise the Kawaida, a Swahili term for tradition and reason. Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of these principles, as follows.

Umoja (Unity) – To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagula (Self-Determination) – To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) – To build and

maintain our community together and make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) – To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose) – To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity) – To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith) – To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Key symbols of Kwanzaa include a decorative mat (called a mkeka) on which other symbols are placed: corn (Mahindi), and other crops, a candle holder kinara with seven candles (Mishumaa Saba), a communal cup for pouring libation, gifts, a poster of the seven principles, and a black, red and green flag. These symbols were designed to convey the seven principles.

Families celebrating Kwanzaa often decorate their homes with objects of art, colorful Af-

rican cloth, such as, kente. Especially the wearing of kaftans by women, and fresh fruits that represent African idealism. It is customary to include children in the ceremonies and to show reverence to ancestors.

Libations are shared, generally with a communal chalice or cup passed around to all celebrants. The traditional greeting is “Joyous Kwanzaa.” Kwanzaa ceremonies typically include drumming and musical selections, libations, a reading of the African Pledge and the Principles of Blackness, reflection on the Pan-African colors, a discussion of the African principle of the day or a chapter in African history, a candle-lighting ritual, artistic performance, and finally a feast. The greeting for each day is “Habari Gani?” which in Swahili means “How are you?”

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Students interested can contact Bolkai Twe at 937.512.2913 or by email at bolkai.twe@sinclair.edu or Bobby Beavers at 937.512.3032 or by email at bobby.beavers@sinclair.edu.

Winter Wonderland

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